WORKS IN PROGRESS

VOLUME 11, NUMBER 7 | THURSTON COUNTY RAINBOW COALITION | NOVEMBER 2000

"The best index to a person's character is how he treats people who can't do him any good, and how he treats people who can't fight back."
-- Abigail Van Buren

Olympia Citizens Attempting to Mail Water Purifiers

Challenge the Sanctions on Iraq

Olympia Citizens for Iraqi Children

Despite the economic sanctions that prohibit the flow of goods to Iraq, a broadly based group of Olympia citizens are attempting to send water purifiers through the Olympia Post Office to the suffering people of Iraq. They will be prevented from doing so due to US law prohibiting the shipment of humanitarian goods to Iraq.

"There will be no demonstration against or occupation of the Post Office," said Phil Steger, one organizer of the event. Nor do the participants seek to interfere with other customers' business, but intend merely to draw people's attention to what, for Americans, is just one aspect of foreign policy, but which for Iraqis is a source of hundreds of thousands of deaths and immense suffering and pain.

As the publication of documents such as, "Iraq Water Treatment Vulnerabilities," a document handed out to members of the Allied Command on January 17th, 1991, the first day of the Gulf War, have made clear, the Iraqi clean water infrastructure, essential for providing potable water to civilians, was targeted and destroyed by US-led forces in order to intensify the suffering experienced by civilians due to sanctions. This infrastructure, because of sanctions, in place since August 6th, 1990, has not, and cannot, be repaired.

The results, according to UNICEF, are staggering, even if they ought to surprise no one: the last nine years of bombing and sanctions have claimed more than one million Iraqi lives, including 500,000 Iraqi children under the age of five. Ostensibly in place to remove Saddam Hussein from power, sanctions have only made the despot, who brutally achieved and maintains his seat of power, all the more irremovable for the average Iraqi dying in the street. Even if they were capable of creating the desired effect, instead of the exact opposite, Americans should know that the starvation of civilians as a means to political or military ends are in violation of every international law safeguarding human rights, including the Geneva Conventions.

This is something to consider in light of the US government's on-going criticisms of other war criminals, such as Slobodan Milosevic, or of violence occurring in the Middle East, specifically the recent explosion of violence in the Israeli-occupied Palestinian National Authority.

The last nine years of bombing and sanctions have claimed more than one million Iraqi lives, including 500,000 Iraqi children under the age of five.

To bring this to other citizens' attention is the purpose of the presence and action at the Post Office.

"We want to help other mothers," said Diana Pisco, a mother of two and volunteer at Olympia's Media Island, a co-organizer of the event, "other fathers, and other adult citizens of Olympia to experience what it feels like to try to save a child's life, at one's own cost, according to one's own conscience, and to be denied by an illegitimate, immoral act of government. An act that is supported by Oly's own representative, Brian Baird."

Rejected packages will be brought to Representative Baird's office immediately upon their rejection, where a small delegation will offer to him and to his staff the choice between a drink of water carried back from Baghdad in a bottle, or water from a water purifier.

"If [Representative Baird], if any of us, would refuse to drink contaminated water, and would choose purified water for ourselves and our children, then how can he, how can any of us, prevent Iraqi people and parents from having that choice for themselves and their children?" asked Steger, a Chehalis resident, who traveled to Iraq, witnessing the devastation there firsthand, with three other Western Washingtonians in August.

Really, how can we?

24th October, 2000.
United Nations Day
◆

Displacement and Gentrification in Downtown Olympia

Pat Tassoni

A precedent for the future of housing in downtown Olympia is about to be made as the City Council decides on whether or not rezone Union Ave at the request of a property owner, Bob Greenway. With the permission of the city, he wants to demolish 20 units of housing and replace it with a retail/office building. Zoning exists to regulate how areas develop by controlling what can be developed by property owners on their particular site. Currently Greenway could develop a new building that is 50% office/retail and 50% housing, but he doesn't like that restriction. He'd made no mention of housing in his plan until the Planning Commission recommended against the rezone — and then Greenway produced a letter stating that he'll include market-rate housing in his plans. He'd still need the rezone though because it still would not be a 50/50 split. Without the rezone there is no guarantee or regulation on what his plan would be concerning housing.

Why is Greenway insisting on a rezone? Bigger profit for property owners is almost always the motive for demolition/development (The Tenants Union Principles of Unity #7: We believe that housing exists to meet a basic human need, and that when conflict arises between tenants' needs and owners' profits, the basic need for affordable decent housing must take priority over the economic interests of the landowners). He has been operating a successful rental property for nearly two decades. Without the rezone, he mentioned he'll continue to do the same for the next two decades. Creation of higher-density or upper-income housing, for instance, or the substitution of commercial for residential use, are typical reasons triggering the demolition of existing rental housing. The City of Olympia's goal is to create 1500 more housing units over the next 15 years. What the city decides with this rezone may set a pattern of gentrification by destroying existing rental units and replacing them with higher income rentals — thus pushing lower-income folks out of the downtown neighborhood.

Zoning and housing ordinances are the only protections for today's and the future's tenants. They can be an effective strategy for ending displacement from residential neighborhoods. Just as no one should be kept out of any neighborhood because of race, creed, nationality, gender, sexual orientation, or household composition, no one should be pushed out of any neighborhood because of circumstances beyond his/her control. Tenants Union members proposed a Relocation Ordinance to the Olympia City Council earlier this year that the city has yet to take action on. If enacted, the current tenants of the site in question would not have to face financial distress and possible homelessness because both the landlord and the city would pay those that qualify for their displacement. This is a way to minimize the damage of gentrification and displacement. It would further ensure that such moves towards the upscaling of downtown is a conscious one, both on the part of the landlord developer and the city.

While it may not stop the displacement, zoning laws and a Relocation Ordinance is at least a healthy step forward, in that it recognizes a public interest in protecting and replacing the housing stock, requires private displacers to give relocation compensation, and puts limits on what a private owner can do with his property if housing demolition is involved. You should get more involved in our emerging and growing city and can contact the Olympia City Council with letters on this or other matters at PO Box 1967 Olympia, WA 98507 or <citycouncil@ci.olympia.wa.us>.

If you have questions about this issue or your rights as a renter, contact the Thurston County Tenants Union at 943-3036 or come by our office at 203 E. 4th Ave #412. ◆

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Works In Progress is a community newspaper sponsored by the Thurston County Rainbow Coalition. Opinions expressed do not necessarily reflect those of the Rainbow Coalition or the Workers In Progress and are solely those of the authors.

Submissions:

Correspondence, articles, art, and photographs are always welcome. Please, when possible, put articles on a 3.5" IBM-compatible disk (text preferred) or via e-mail. Artwork and photos should be camera-ready/ black & white.

WIP reserves the right to publish in whole or part all submissions. For editing purposes, please enclose your phone number.

Articles may be reprinted. Please cite source.

If you don't see your issue being covered in Works In Progress, it's because you aren't writing about it! (Or aren't finding someone else to cover it!)

Send submissions to Works In Progress, PO Box 295, Olympia, WA 98507-0295, wip@ olywa.net

Back Issues:

Get your catalog of indexed WIPs below. Some back issues are available in the Olympia Timberland Library. WIP is being archived on microfilm by the UW Library.

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Chelsea Chase	Wendy Ortiz
Sebastian Chase	Hali Panneton
Renee Cruickshank	Tara Perkins
Megan Davis	Lisa Serrano
Carter Hick	Jeff Sowers
Steve Hillmer	Sylvia Smith
Frank Hoffman	Pat Tassoni
Teresa Jennings	Alice Zillah
Jerome Johnson	Andrew ?
Evelyn Manlapaz	Marie Smith

Mission Statement:

"Our aim is to confront injustice and encourage a participatory democracy based on economic, social, and environmental justice. Works In Progress is dedicated to providing a voice for those most affected by the exclusionary and unfair practices that seek to silence the oppressed."

Anti-Discrimination Clause:

We will collectively endeavor to be sensitive and respectful to all those oppressed in this society, and their issues. However, if and when we should make a mistake in this regard, we expect to acknowledge it and to express regret for injury or insult given.

Governing Tool:

The following statement will become part of the Editorial Policy and will be the governing tool for the Anti-Discrimination Clause: *WIP will make every effort to work with the contributor of material considered by WIP to be offensive in order to reach a mutually agreed upon resolution, but WIP reserves the right as a last resort to edit or not print submitted material.*

Letters, briefs, etc.

Freedomwalk 2000

Prayer Walk for Leonard Peltier's Freedom

Sunday, December 3rd through 10th

from Philadelphia to New York City

Join us as we walk and pray for American Indian Political Prisoner Leonard Peltier's Freedom. We will begin our walk at the Liberty Bell with a Sunrise Pipe Ceremony. A sacred pipe will be filled and the pipe will lead the walkers for seven days. We will arrive in NYC on December 10th, Human Rights Day. We will join with the Leonard Peltier March for Freedom, which will proceed to the United Nations. Now is the time for us to join our voices together and make a call for justice too loud to ignore. A Green Tortoise bus will be available to take you across the country to do the walk. Leaving on November 20 and returning on December 15. We'll need immediate confirmation from those interested. Possible subsidies available for those who want to ride. You can mail your tax deductible donation to: Freedom Walk 2000, 2103 Harrison Ave. PMB 186, Olympia, WA 98502. Make checks payable to Media Island, specify Freedom Walk 2000 in the memo line. Call 951-3733 or <freedomwalk2000@yahoo.com>.

El Salvador Today

Jose "Chencho" Alas speaks on "Peasant-led development efforts: El Salvador Today."

Monday, Nov. 6 at 7pm
Lincoln school cafeteria
213 - 21st Ave SE. Olympia

Jose "Chencho" Alas is Executive Director of Foundation for Self-Sufficiency - a US nonprofit organization (tax- deductible) dedicated to supporting the movement for justice and peace in El Salvador and the rest of Central America. Current efforts are support of a peasant organization that has established a Local Zone of Peace encompassing more than 80 communities in Usulutan province of El Salvador. They are working to restore the environment and heal the community from wounds of war and environmental degradation. They are involved in providing a protein source for families (chicken project) and homes out of the floodway, organic farms/gardens and reforestation. Youth gang mediation and conflict resolution trainings are current priorities. There is also a link with the schools there and schools in the Olympia-Lacey area.

The meeting is free and open to the public. For more information: Bob Zeigler at phone (360) 570-0848.

Networking Meeting

Activists in and around Olympia are invited to a special NETWORKING MEETING on Wednesday, November 15th, from 6:30-9 PM. Come to the Olympia YWCA, 220 Union Ave. This event is organized by Media Island International. Call 352-8526 for more information. SOLIDARITY FOREVER!

Personal Experience with Nonviolence

Friday, Nov. 17 at 7pm
Traditions Cafe

(Continued page 14)

WIP Schedule

Submission Deadline:

Friday, Nov. 24th

Proofreading Meeting

Monday, Nov. 27th
6:30pm at Olympia Timberland Library

Everyone Welcome!

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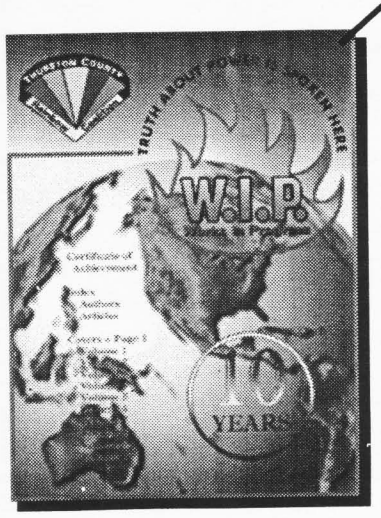

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NOVEMBER 2000

United States: World's Largest Exporters of Conventional Arms

→ **US manufacturers controls 49.1% of the $53.4 billion global conventional arms market. The UK was the second-largest exporter with 18.7% of the market, France was third with 12.4%, and Russia fourth at 6.6%.**

→ **In 1999, the US exported a total of 98 battle tanks, 165 armored combat vehicles, 87 artillery systems, 169 combat aircraft, 40 helicopters, 19 warships, and 1,253 various types of missiles.**

→ **Vice President Al Gore has been an aggressive advocate of US arms sales, even going so far as to get personally involved in pressing officials of the United Arab Emirates on behalf of a sale of 80 Lockheed Martin F-16 fighters in what was widely touted as the last big arms deal of the 20th century.**

→ **100,000 people were killed as a direct result of armed conflicts in the year up to August, 60% of them in sub-Saharan Africa.**

"It is quite sad for the United States government to support the sale of weapons to non-democratic countries, to countries that violate human rights, to countries that are engaged in armed aggression against other countries or their own people." **Oscar Arias**

Sources: Arms Trade News, Defense News, Arms Trade Resource Center, International Institute for Strategic Studies

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
"I expect to review our arms sales policy and to take it up with the other major arms sellers of the world as a part of a long-term effort to reduce the proliferation of weapons." **Presidential Candidate Bill Clinton on the '92 campaign trail**			**1** **1890**: New constitution adopted by Mississippi restricts black suffrage to individuals who can read and interpret the US Constitution	**2** **1999**: Voters pass I-695 eliminating car tax **1999**: Study released shows Hanford workers experience significant health risks	**3** **1997**: Supreme Court rejects challenge to CA's Proposition 209 **1999**: WA Gov Locke pledges to uphold voters wishes with I- 695"	**4** **1999**: Congress passes bill tearing down the Depression-era barriers between banks, insurance companies and investment firms
5 **1998**: Lacey City Council places restrictions on panhandling **1999**: US Dist Court Judge Jackson rules Microsoft a monopoly	**6** **1913**: Gandhi is arrested by British troops in India **1998**: Newt Gingrich announces he will not run for re-election	**7** **1910**: Miners' strike in Wales leads to clashes with police **1932**: Supreme Court grants "Scottsboro Boys" new trial	**8** **1999**: Gates attends Gov Locke fundraiser **1999**: Thurston County Commission approves $10 booking for those arrested	**9** **1999**: US Dist Court Judge orders Paper Committee and Lumber & Wood Products Committee to include environmental rep	**10** **1917**: 41 women from 15 states of the Union are arrested outside the White House in Washington for suffragette demonstrations	**11** **1933**: "Great Black Blizzard," 1st dust storm, over N Dakota, **1999**: WTO opponents start $40,000 outdoor advertising campaign
12 **1933**: Great Black Blizzard blackens the sky over Chicago **1999**: Woman is sexually assaulted on the Chehalis Western Trail	**13** **1933**: Great Black Blizzard blackens the sky over Albany, NY **1998**: US says Iraq can only avert air attack by allowing inspections	**14** **1908**: Einstein presents quantum theory of light **1995**: UN claims animal and plant species are being destroyed at an alarming rate	**15** **1999**: Federal Judge in Seattle gives Washington state until May to start providing treatment for violent sexual predators	**16** **1999**: Nationwide study released ranks Seattle #3 in traffic congestion **1999**: Bill Nye films political ad in Olympia	**17** **1881**: Samuel Gompers organizes the Federation of Organized Trades and Labor Unions of the U.S. and Canada in Pittsburgh	**18** **1999**: St Transportation Commission cuts $680 million in construction and 7 ferries **1999**: Texas A&M log pyramid collapses
19 **1999**: Skokomish sue against Tacoma and fed gov for $5,8 billion for damages caused by the Lake Cushman hydropower project	**20** **1962**: JFK signs Ex. Order banning racial and religious discrimination in housing **1999**: Jo Mama's closes its doors	**21** **1999**: More than 3,000 protesters protest human rights abuses committed by graduates of the Army's School of the Americas	**22** **1909**: 20,000 NY garment workers strike **1916**: Jack London, who suffered from depression, died of taking an excess of morphine	**23** **1999**: Gov Locke proposes cutting 1,500 full-time state jobs and contracting out more state services to private providers	**24** **1999**: Starving grizzly, 2 cubs shot in native village; grizzlies in BC suffering from over commercial/sports fishing of salmon	**25** **1998**: An Evergreen police officer resigns to avoid disciplinary action after accusations of improperly drawing his gun
26 **1997**: WA Supreme Court rules police have more latitude in keeping records secret, can keep police files on unsolved crimes secret	**27** **1999**: 2 women hang from I-5 retaining wall in Seattle holding banner: "Caution: Corporate Rule Ahead. Shut down the WTO."	**28** **1999**: Labor leaders warn WTO it's facing its demise if it does not address workers' rights **1999**: WA state claims to be Y2K ready	**29** **1999**: Issaquah police baton maker says WTO good for business, past month produced 100s of batons/riot sticks for area police departments	**30** **1999**: Protestors shut down WTO; cops use tear gas, pepper spray and other "nonlethal" munitions; mayor panics, implements curfew	**OCTOBER** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	**DECEMBER** S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

Up Front

Get Up and VOTE!

Jerome Johnson

If you're someone who votes consistently, you're going to enjoy this column. If you DON'T vote consistently, or at all, get ready—because reading this column is going to be uncomfortable for you. In fact, I hope I make it so uncomfortable that you change your mind and VOTE—not only in this election, but in future elections as well. That's because I'm going to share my firm belief that voting is critically important, and that we can use the ballot box to effect social change in a positive way. For example, when we banded together several years ago, we voted down two heinous initiatives, I-608 and I-610. These two initiatives would have essentially destroyed civil rights for lesbian and gay people. But we informed ourselves, informed the public, and VOTED—and as a result, we kept homophobia out of state law and made everyone in Washington safer and better off.

Voters forced George Bush Sr. to seek his second term through his son—if Dubya can make it.

Oh, I've heard all the lame excuses as to why people don't vote:

"I don't have anyone to vote for." Get a grip, folks. Very rarely will you find a candidate or issue you agree completely with. But these issues and candidates have a direct impact on your life, whether you realize it or not. Examine the candidates and issues, use common sense, add up the factors you like most, and vote. Remember, politicians respond to input and pressure like anyone else. If you vote for them and they don't do what you want, let them know. They'll respond—because to get re-elected they need your vote, which means paying attention to you when you say something. While the Elian Gonzalez controversy was going on, I called and let Baird, Gorton and Murray know that I wanted Elian to be with his father. All of them responded to me.

"I don't like any other candidates running." Then write in someone you DO like. In '96 I wrote Jesse Jackson in for president.

"I don't know enough about the issues, and I don't have time to learn." This one is great, especially now in the Information Age. It tells me that people don't watch TV, listen to radio, surf the Net, read, talk to people and who live in solitary confinement. If you have time to know the sports score, or the Lotto jackpot, you have time to inform yourself. You can listen while driving, or exercising—instead of music on your Walkman, try a news update while you stretch. Sitting on the throne—especially at night—is good for reading or listening. You might just get headlines, but that's more than nothing and enough to vote by gut feeling. I mean, this is real life—and death—we're talking about here.

"Both candidates seem the same, there's no choice." To this one I have only three words: U.S. Supreme Court. If you don't vote, choices will be a memory—especially if you're a woman.

One of the most dangerous trends I've seen in recent years is this ambivalent attitude toward voting, especially among young people.

"The issues don't seem relevant to me, I'm not interested." Key word here is "seem," my friends. I can tell you, issues are relevant to EVERYONE, including YOU. If you don't know it, you do know. VOTE—the ass you save may be your own.

Last, my all-time No.1 favorite excuse: "I don't have time to go vote." Well, you'll be pleased to hear of a recent invention known as the mail-in absentee ballot. All you do is let your county clerk know that you'd like to vote absentee from now on, and presto! A ballot will be mailed to you. At your leisure, in your 'jammies, you can vote and just mail the ballot back. A great benefit of this method is the ability to discuss the ballot with your friends and loved ones while you vote, in the privacy of your home. And speaking of which, to vote this way you don't have to leave the comfort of your living room—after voting you can mail the completed ballot back, from your home. I use this method myself, although every so often I still enjoy the ritual of going to the polling place, entering a booth and punching a ballot.

One of the most dangerous trends I've seen in recent years is this ambivalent attitude toward voting, especially among young people. It's to the point now where people like *TIME*'s Joe Stein is even urging people not to vote, hinting that not voting is somehow making a statement about how fed up people are with the U.S. election process, and that it might even be cool not to vote. Irony aside, I'm appalled by Stein's ignorance, and *TIME* was, in my opinion, grossly irresponsible in printing it. How can you change something by boycotting it? If you want to change the system, then particpate and support changes. If you don't like the candidates or parties, then support alternatives—as Minnesotans did when they elected Jesse Ventura. Nationally we're doing it with Ralph Nader and, yes, even the odious Pat Buchanan.

Whenever people dismiss alternative candidates, saying "they can't win," I merely cite history. When the first major alternative candidate, ex-Republican John Anderson, ran in 1980 he didn't win. However, he worried the GOP and more important, awakened Americans to the fact that if THEY make it happen, alternative candidates can be viable. Anderson lost, but he made it easier for Jesse Jackson in 1984. With his incredible success that year—despite the constraints of the Democratic Party—Jackson made his 1988 run more feasible, in turn paving the way for Ross Perot in 1992. In turn, Perot created very credible belief in a run in '96, which paved the way for Nader's run this year—and Nader's run will make it easier for alternative candidates in 2004. Make no mistake—I'm fully aware that these are widely diverse people with very different policy positions. Rather, I use the term "pave the way" in the overall context of these candidates challenging the 2-person-race status quo. Even within the parties, we're seeing more candidates vying for office—which is great for the

(Continued page 15)

Civil Rights Endorsements

		NOW	Sierra	WCV	Greens	WFSE	FV/SEA
Federal Offices							
President	Al Gore (D)		✓			✓	
	Ralph Nader (G)				✓		
Senate	Maria Cantwell (D)	✓	✓			✓	
House	Brian Baird (D)	✓	✓			✓	
House	Adam Smith (D)		✓			✓	
State Offices							
Governor	Gary Locke (D)	✓				✓	
Lieutenant Governor	Ruth Bennett (L)						✓
	Brad Owen (D)					✓	
Secretary of State	Sam Reed (R)			✓			
	Don Bonker (D)					✓	
Lands Commissioner	Mike Lowry (D)		✓	✓			✓
Attorney General	Christine Gregoire (D)	✓		✓		✓	✓
	Richard Pope (R)						No
Insurance Commissioner	Mike Kreidler (D)	✓		✓		✓	
Auditor	Brian Sonntag (D)	✓				✓	
Treasurer	Mike Murphy (D)	✓				✓	
Superintendent	Terry Bergeson (np)					✓	
State Initiatives							
I-713							
I-722		NO				NO	
I-728		NO					
I-729		NO				NO	
I-732		NO					
I-745		NO		NO	NO	NO	
State Representative							
Legislative District 22, Position 1	Sandra Romero (D)		✓	✓		✓	YES!
	Franklin Wilson (R)						No
	Joshua Amos (L)						n/a
Legislative District 22, Position 2	Sam Hunt (D)			✓		✓	YES!
	Bill Pilkey (R)						No
State Senator							
Legislative District 22	Karen Fraser (D)		✓	✓		✓	YES!
	Randy Brooks (L)						n/a
Legislative District 20	Dan Swecker (R)					✓	
Thurston County Commissioner							
District 1	Cathy Wolfe (D)					✓	YES!
	Mike Pettit (R)						n/a
District 2	Diane Oberquell (D)						No

LEGEND:

NOW = the National Organization of Women

WCV = Washington Conservation Voters endorsing state offices only with the Thurston Environmental Action League endorsing Thurston County offices

Sierra = The Sierra Club

WFSE = Washington Federation of State Employees/ AFSME

Greens = The Green Party

FV = Freedom Vote endorsing Thurston County offices only

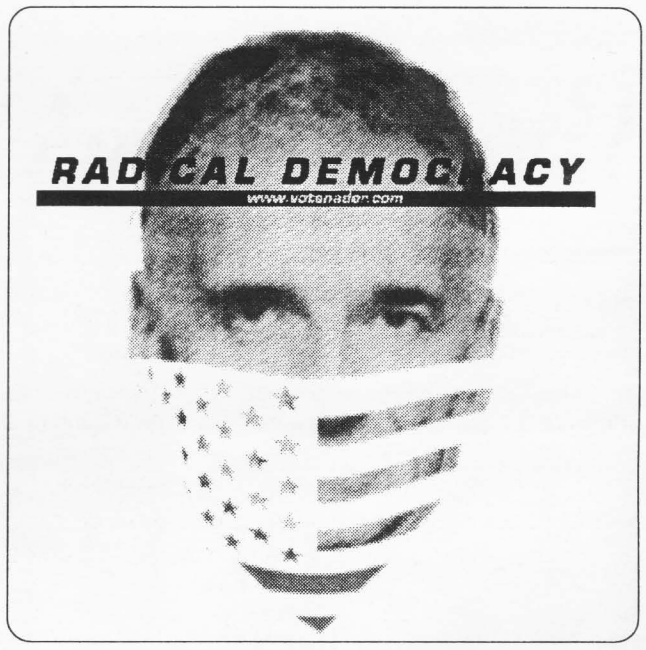
"**YES!**" indicates a proven track record in support of GLBT

"**No**" indicates an unclear position on GLBT issues

"**n/a**" indicates a lack of response to survey and interview request

SEA = Seattle Metropolitan Elections Committee for GBLT endorsements for state offices.

Little Green Monsters



Thomas Walton

With the money party-sponsored debate commission's forceful exclusion of Ralph Nader from the presidential debates as both participator and observer, the arguments between Naderites and supporters for Gore in the White House have reached a heated pitch. Through these discussions, not to mention the countless articles in magazines and newspapers from *Newsweek* to *The New York Times* to *The Nation*, the nature of the two camps has become evident. The arguments for Nader are based on a desire to break the theoretical and political mold that has failed historically to instigate change – think foreign policy, which has been the same from the first George W (that is, Washington) to the present, namely the genocidal exploitation a.ka. manifest destiny. The arguments for Gore, on the other hand, are little more than campaign slogans tainted with the fear so typical of American politics – think red scare and the domino effect as justification for the arms race, Vietnam, Bay of Pigs, etc. The "lesser of two evils," and "a vote for Nader is a vote for Bush" are hardly well thought out positions to bring to an argument, rather more like expressions of an awful faith, furnished apartments in which to hide. Given this, it is no wonder Naderites come across to Gories as idealistic.

The Gories claim that Naderites are naive and idealistic; they campaign: "gradual change not radical change." Gore supporters are "realistic" and "practical." It is true that Naderites are more idealistic than Gories, after all, the former have ideas about the environment within which they live and work, while the latter simply subscribe to ideals that, even though they support them through their subscriptions, they don't necessarily claim as theirs. Is this practical, realistic? Should I send in my check for the "free" magazine *Time* sent me, even though I didn't ask for it? Arthur Lothstein offered this thirty years ago in *The Philosophy of the New Left* (pg.20): "where reason is systematically violated the most reasonable course is *not* to be 'realistic,' in the sense in which this implies accommodation to a maleficent and irrational social system." I don't like *Time Magazine*, or *Newsweek* either.

The slogan "lesser of two evils" here (which in this case happens to be Bush, since his budget plan calls for less military spending than Gore's) is not only ridiculous, it is murderous.

The two money parties will continue to exclude third parties as long as they are allowed, as long as we accept the catch-22 15% popular opinion as real. By Gory reasoning it is idealistic, in a democratic society, to expect (to demand it would be sheer terrorism) the debate commission to allow third parties into the debates because the practical reality of it all is that a candidate has to have 15% of popular opinion. The fact that two parties, behind closed doors, have created a debate commission to exclude any other party, has dictated the rules of exclusion, is somehow a reality not worth worrying over. One is sophisticated in accepting this breach of democracy, naive in speaking out against it.

"Gradual change not radical change" more accurately applies to the race between Gore and Bush than it does to that between Gore and Nader. It is true that Bush is more radical than Gore, that is, Bush will more violently exacerbate our wounds and the wounds we inflict on other countries. Bush will bring about a quicker and more complete exploitation of the Third World abroad and at home. (For those who are naive: non-whites, women, gays, the poor, artists, etc. are all considered part of the Third World, that is, not really worth considering at all. This sentiment will continue as long as we continue to support it by voting for the two parties that endorse it.) Gore, on the other hand, or should I say lesser hand, will allow for a more gradual degradation than Bush, for the Democrats have a moderate approach to exploitation and discrimination.

In 1968 bipartisanism offered voters a "choice" between a "total bombing" of Vietnam and a "limited bombing." Neither party would consider withdrawal. Those who voted for the lesser evil, the practical decision, voted for a moderate slaughter of the Vietnamese army and civilians. This eased voters' consciences. (After all, to discuss peace was naive and idealistic.) This lesser of two evils decision cost hundreds of thousands of lives, some of whom died at the hands of the U.S. army at home protesting the war. The vote for "moderation" was not a Leftist vote, it was a vote informed and intimidated by the Right and a stubborn refusal by the duopoly to discuss peaceful ways of getting out of the war. Because the peace movement was portrayed as idealistic, therefore not realistic, voters were not offered the real choice of withdrawal.

A similar situation presents itself today. Both Bush and Gore support the Israeli army and will continue sending weapons, including nuclear warheads, to that army. In recent weeks we have seen an escalation of combat between Israel and Palestine. The casualties are overwhelmingly Palestinian, many adolescents, who with meager forces have sought to defend themselves. In doing this, the Palestinians have been vilified by the corporate, bipartisan controlled media as terrorists and rioters. The Israeli army, it seems, does no more than retaliate to Palestinian violence. (With sophisticated air strikes directed not at individual perpetrators of injustice, but at vaguely representational areas of Palestinian revolt without warning, thus slaughtering whoever may be present for whatever reason.) The slogan "lesser of two evils" here (which in this case happens to be Bush, since his budget plan calls for less military spending than Gore's) is not only ridiculous, it is murderous.

We are fast approaching a situation where our lesser of two evils, realistic vote will have very real consequences. Where idealism is childish, change cannot breathe. For those in Palestine and at home, please accept my naiveté. ◆

Can You Eat a Sacred Cow?

Independent Media and Electoral Politics

by Ron Jacobs

What follows is a short paper that was distributed at an independent media convergence held in Burlington, Vermont on October 13th and 14th,.

Let me begin by stating my distrust of electoral politics under the U.S. system of corporate capitalism. This perspective is one that has not diminished since I moved to Vermont where a relatively strong third party movement exists. Indeed, the Vermont experience vis-à-vis Bernie Sanders has only strengthened my conviction that if voting did anything, it would be illegal. I say this because, despite the fact that Bernie's most ardent supporters tend to come from the left of the political spectrum and in opposition to the Republicrat's anti-poor, pro-imperial policies, he has sided with those policies when they were expedient to his career pursuits, even if those policies resulted in the pointless deaths of people overseas (as in Iraq and Yugoslavia) and the imprisonment of U.S. citizens who would have been better served with education and treatment (as in the 1996 Crime bill), not to mention the dismemberment of the Bill of Rights that bill produced.

Locally, the Progressives (a left-leaning political party of which Bernie is nominally a member) have fared a bit better—placing members in the Vermont legislature, on city councils and running a candidate for governor.

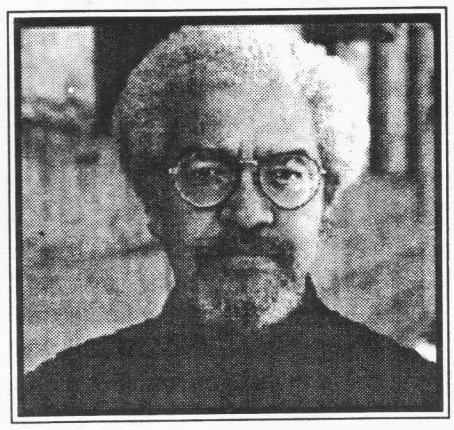
Unfortunately, this success is bound to be limited, thanks to the laws regarding election monies, the cost of elections, and the winner-take-all mechanisms that exist in this country. As all of us know, the latter phenomenon make it impossible for those of us who are not represented by the corporate parties to be represented in the legislatures of the United States. Consequently, we either vote for the so-called lesser of two evils (who, as Jerry Garcia once said, "is still evil"), or we don't vote at all.

All this being said, what is the role of independent media in electoral politics? I submit it is to be a thorn in their side—a constant critic and reporter of its shortcomings, missteps, real intent, and its outright lies. Even when the candidates who are running or ruling are people we personally support. Nothing and nobody should be sacred. At *Works In Progress,* the editorial staff endorses candidates for local and state elections every go-round -- some independents and some from the left wing of the Democratic Party there. In addition, they also state their positions on the various propositions on every ballot. Although I seem to recall some concern originally amongst the staff about calling those candidates the paper endorsed to task when they made decisions the paper thought were wrong, that concern has been erased by the staff's commitment to speaking truth to all powers. Here in Vermont, where I am a member of the editorial collective which produces The Old North End RAG, our paper was accused early on of being a mouthpiece of the Progressive Coalition by certain Democrats who went so far as to challenge our funding from HUD neighborhood monies. Lately, however, word has it that certain Progressives now consider us elitist and out-of-touch, probably because we have called Bernie Sanders to task more than once. To me, this is good. It means we are doing our job—jabbing from the left without regard to any individual or political party.

In both cases, these papers have been doing the right thing. In other words, they are proving themselves to be beholden to no one. If media of any format and any persuasion are to be trusted by their audience, they must speak the truth. Unfortunately in today's world, most truth is now defined by the corporate world of total control. That is why we are here—to defy and challenge that control. Media has the advantage over political parties in that it does not have to be beholden to donors, only the truth. Consequently, we have no obligation to ignore our allies' compromises with the world of corporate trade. We do have an obligation to expose those compromises, however. ◆

Along the Color Line

Vote Strategically: For Nader



Dr. Manning Marable

The vast majority of African Americans who vote in the November 2000 presidential election will undoubtedly support the Democratic ticket of Al Gore and Joseph Lieberman. The national black political establishment including more than ten thousand elected officials, the Congressional Black Caucus, key black leaders of the AFL-CIO, and paid operatives within the Democratic National Committee-have for months spoken with one voice, unanimously praising Al Gore.

The black establishment's behavior and motivations are understandable. Big city mayors rely on federal dollars to address urban problems, and a Gore administration would certainly be preferable to the conservative policies of Bush. A strong black voter turnout for Gore could also contribute to Democratic majorities in Congress, which in turn would elevate a number of African Americans like Harlem Congressman Charles Rangel into powerful House chairmanships. Thousands of black professionals, managers and attorneys who are connected to the Clinton administration through networks of patronage and power, see Gore's victory as being essential to their own career advancement. Any private misgivings they still feel about Gore's embrace of the death penalty, or the anti-affirmative action positions of Joe Lieberman, are now effectively suppressed. Like loyal foot soldiers in a grand army on the battlefield, they are ready to hurl themselves against the ramparts of their political enemies.

Yet blind loyalty is rarely rewarded, whether on the battlefield or in politics. Those who declare their allegiances first rarely sit at the table when the spoils of victory are divided. Those who make up their minds last exercise the greatest power in politics, because they can leverage all parties into making valuable concessions. This is the strategic explanation why Gore and Bush are spending millions of dollars and the majority of their campaign efforts to appeal to so-called "swing voters," especially senior citizens and suburban middle class white women. Bush completely ignores the African-American electorate because he knows he'll receive few black votes, probably under 10 percent. Gore can also safely ignore us, because he knows we have nowhere else to go. Many black elected officials are only working just hard enough to have a decent black voter turnout, but privately don't want the overwhelming masses to go to the polls. If millions of poor, unemployed and working class African Americans were actually mobilized to participate in the electoral process, the outcome would be entirely unpredictable. Thus all too many black elected politicians and Democratic Party officials have become silent partners in the suppression of black electoral political power.

Since Bush represents no alternative, the real debate that ought to exist within the African-American community is whether we should vote for Gore or Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader.

Since Bush represents no alternative, the real debate that ought to exist within the African-American community is whether we should vote for Gore or Green Party presidential candidate Ralph Nader. Black mainstream Democrats, most trade union organizers and many progressives are now resorting to a wide variety of explanations why black folk must remain doggedly loyal to Gore and the Democrats. Briefly, let's examine three of their main arguments.

Argument One: "Gore's a positive good, not a necessary evil." This position strains credibility, even among members of the Congressional Black Caucus like Representatives Maxine Waters and Jesse Jackson, Jr. Gore has a long track record of hostility to black people's interests, especially on issues related to criminal justice and poor women's rights. It was Gore who pushed for the passage of the 1994 Crime Act, that broadly expanded the federal death penalty. It was Gore earlier this year who promised to cover America in "a blanket of blue" with the hiring of 50,000 more police nationwide. It was Gore, according to journalist Alexander Cockburn, who

(Continued next page)

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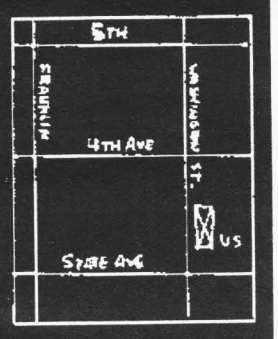

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(Nader, continued)

"has pushed for block grants for prison expansion in the states, with the proviso that such federal grants will be issued only if each state insures that prisoners serve at least 85 percent of their sentences." It was Gore as a Congressman who voted to ban federal funding of abortions for poor women, even in cases of rape. It was Gore who finally convinced Clinton to sign the destructive 1996 Welfare Act. It was Gore who almost single-handedly pushed Clinton's administration to the right, by hiring Reagan stooge David Gergen and sleazy political consultant Dick Morris.

Argument Two: "Gore's not great, but he's all we've got to defeat the Far Right." This argument does make sense, but only because Bush and Company represent repressive politics and policies that are both "bad" and "ugly." Liberal journalist Tom Wicker has recently posed a critical question in the Nation that must be answered seriously, even by Nader's supporters: "Whom do you want to nominate Justices for the Supreme Court in the next four years?" The next president will probably nominate three new justices to the Supreme Court. As Wicker suggests, "three more Scalia & Thomas-style votes would transform what's now a back-and-forth Court into a (conservative) bastion that could last for generations." Roe v. Wade would probably be reversed, and the remnants of affirmative action destroyed forever. Gun control and campaign finance reform would be possible. Wicker concludes that the best guarantee against any such outcomes is a big Democratic victory across the board in November.

Wicker, the well-meaning white liberal, is wrong here. The best way to defeat the Right is to build powerful democratic movements within black and brown communities, within labor, gay and lesbian, women's rights and environmental constituencies. Tactically, the black freedom movement and the progressive left should mobilize to defeat the Republican Right, especially in those local, state and national races where there is a clear and unambiguous distinction between the agendas of the candidates. One prominent example that immediately comes to mind is that of conservative Republican "Little Rickie" Lazio, the baby-faced reactionary masquerading as a moderate, who is challenging Hillary Rodham Clinton for the Senate in New York.

Argument Three: "Nader's no real alternative, and actually could be worse than Gore." In recent weeks, Nader has become the object of considerable attack from various feminist, gay/lesbian and minority constituencies. Patricia Ireland, president of the National Organization of Women, denounced Nader as "ill-informed about abortion rights, and accusing him of "ignorance" and "indifference" on women's issues. A San Francisco-based minority coalition of African Americans, Latinos and Asians described Nader as being "oblivious" to people of color and women. David Smith, the spokesperson for the Human Rights Campaign, the country's largest lesbian, gay and transgender rights group has dismissed Nader as homophobic and heterosexist.

One can, and should seriously question Nader's views about racially oppressed groups, lesbians, gays and women. We must set that same high standard in judging any candidate. Yet what is also true is that most of Nader's liberal-left critics are privately in Gore's back pocket. The Human Rights Campaign, for example, endorsed Gore and is campaigning vigorously on his behalf. How and when did Al Gore become a fighter for black liberation? By what "magic" did Gore transform himself as a defender of gay and lesbian rights? What I find particularly offensive is the cynical manipulation of racial and gendered attacks against the Nader campaign, while saying virtually nothing about the devastating political hit poor and working class women of color have taken from the Clinton-Gore administration after the implementation of welfare reform.

In the 2000 election, our overall objective should not be to elect Democrats per se, but to mobilize working class and the poor, to enhance African-American and Latino political clout, and to defeat the Far Right. Voting for Nader in most states actually accomplishes these goals better than by supporting Gore-Lieberman. In the long run, we cannot rely on the Democratic Party to defend the people's interests, against the right. Only an independent, progressive people's movement challenging racism and corporate power can accomplish this.

Dr. Manning Marable is Professor of History and Political Science, and the Director of the Institute for Research in African-American Studies, Columbia University. "Along the Color Line" is distributed free of charge to over 350 publications throughout the U.S. and internationally. Dr. Marable's column is also available on the Internet at www.manningmarable.net. ◆

Giving Thanks, Despite the Guilt

by Frank Hoffman

It is autumn, a class of college students coming to Olympia for the first time, sits in meeting spaces downtown I have seen organizations blossom and die in, and these new faces act as if they are the first to sit on that same floor and talk forcefully and happily about making this community a better place, a more just and human place. And their newness and relative youth makes the preceeding generation or class of students, seem old, when just a short time ago, it seems, these old were the new faces. I sat on the same floor, newly painted after old red carpets had been torn up, and wrote, RESIST, and Pace y Bene, and somebody else wrote, Don't forget to brush! The downstairs was Bulldog News then; now its Olympia World News.

These facts or pages of local activist history fall like leaves almost every autumn, greeting new faces, new courage, new wisdom in old places that still hold the breath of the words spoken in them the autumn before.

I am thankful to still be able to listen to new hopes, new plans and to be asked to share them, even though my autumn is certainly here.

I wonder if the contemporary ancestors of the first people here think of things they would have done differently if they had been the ones on the shores of what is now called New England and Virginia and watched the Europeans, instead of those long ago relatives and ancestors, first sail up to what had been for thousands of years the first peoples' home. Would they have killed every defenseless pilgrim man, woman and child, instead of helping them survive through those first hard winters? We should be thankful that didn't happen and as part of that thanks, act as an honorable people toward the daughters and sons of those first people who were here long before.

Middle Class Americans have much to be thankful for, simply by the accident of our birth here. Our freedoms and wealth were not gained or earned by us, though we want to believe they were. Other peoples pay the price for them every day. What is it we owe those other peoples, the ones who assemble our clothes and make our watchbands, the ones who's cultures are displaced to make way for Pepsi and Madonna, who watch our military patrol their shores to protect our comforts? How do we show our thanks? How do we acknowledge our debt? Do we exchange our security and comfort for justice and freedom in the world? What will autumn be like seven generation from now? Will everyone be sitting at the same table, enjoying the same peace? For then, everyone could be thankful.

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KAOS in Transition:
A History of Evergreen's Community Radio Station Part II

Megan Davis

This year is a landmark in KAOS history. Right now, KAOS is going through significant changes: The relocation of its antenna, which will drastically increase the station's range; Internet streaming, which just started running last month; and the process of finding a replacement for KAOS' general manager of 17 years, Michael Huntsberger. On top of all that, volunteers, staff and listening community members were shaken up this summer by a controversial marketing research audit that management was conducting, and this controversy sparked a lot of public discussion about the direction KAOS is going in. The audit's now been set aside, possibly forever, but the debate continues: What should KAOS' direction be, as they move into this new era?

I've written this two-part article because I think history comes in handy when you're thinking about planning for the future. Part I dealt with KAOS' early years, from its beginning in '73 till the late '80's, which was an era of steady growth as more and more station control accumulated in professional staff positions (as opposed to student staff or volunteers, which are the other two worker groups that keep the station running). Now, we pick up where Part I left off.

The HSP: Part I

The early 90's was an exciting time for community stations, because political conditions caused federal funding to become a lot easier for community stations to get. Stations that had always subsisted on shoestring budgets suddenly found themselves with thousands of federal dollars. Around the same time, the National Federation of Community Broadcasters (NFCB) designed the Healthy Stations Project (HSP), which aimed to guide stations through the process of growth that new funding brought on. The HSP was essentially a printed curriculum and a series of consultations from HSP staff to advise station management on what they should focus on changing during the growth process. But as it turned out, the HSP generally met with strong resistance from staff, volunteers and boards of stations. "They identified five or six stations to take the HSP to, and one by one, each of the stations just blew up," explains Huntsberger. "The HSP became this metaphor for an ineffective way to try to manipulate the way a community radio station is run." The HSP was generally seen by station workers as a blueprint for commercialization, while pro-HSP workers often saw resistance as simple fear of change.

In '91, before the HSP gained its bad reputation, KAOS received a grant from the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (CPB) to fund a visit from HSP leader David LePage. He visited the station and conducted an "organizational analysis." Then he wrote a list of suggestions that were based on the HSP guidelines, and tailored to KAOS' particular situation.

KAOS' next era will be decided above all else by the answer to one question: To what extent is it a community radio station?

But KAOS was preoccupied at that time with two major projects: the addition of a satellite which would bring in non-local programming, and a major remodeling project on Evergreen's CAB building, where the station's offices are. And so the HSP recommendations were set aside for a while.

New Offices

The CAB remodelling project was a big deal. It took two years to complete, and during that time KAOS crouched in the basement of the building. Their temporary studio was such a cramped space, claims one programmer, that you couldn't do a live interview because two people couldn't fit in the studio. The studio's only window overlooked the CAB's indoor loading dock. But KAOS kept up broadcasts, and around '93 they moved back to their original space on the third floor. Their headquarters had doubled in size, to a comfortable four rooms and connecting hallway.

Downfall of the Advisory Board

At true community stations, where the community owns the FCC license, an advisory board made up of community members and volunteers is required by federal law. The board contributes to major decisions and reviews policies and budgets created by the staff. However, since KAOS is owned by Evergreen, a community advisory board is not required. But from its start in '73 KAOS had one anyway. The board was made up of students, faculty and community members. Though it didn't have any teeth, it did receive performance reports from the station and advise on policy and staff appointments.

But in '92 things changed. KAOS' advisory board was combined with the advisory board of Evergreen's student newspaper, The Cooper Point Journal, to become the Communications Board. After this happened, the board had little power to oversee or advise on anything, because its role was severely restricted by First Amendment rights protecting student newspapers from being tampered with by college management.

And so from '92 to the present, there has been no organized mechanism for station management to receive input from or be held accountable to the wider community. The Communications Board never really found a useful role for itself, and eventually it just fizzled out. In fact, when asked this summer, the two highest-placed KAOS managers couldn't say who is supposed to be on the board, what they might be up to, or whether they even have meetings anymore.

What this means is that KAOS does not have any organized way of holding staff accountable to the community KAOS is supposed to serve. Because it's considered a necessary aspect of true community stations, KAOS' lack of a community board raises the question of what exactly we mean when we say it's a "community station."

Local Programming Policy

After a nine-year process, in 1994 KAOS finally got a satellite dish that picked up national programs. KAOS became affiliated with Pacifica and American Public Radio (now Public Radio International). Many were concerned about whether this would undermine local programming, so some volunteers and staff formed a group called KAN that researched the pros and cons of the new satellite and then created KAOS' local programming policy. Two of the policy's major tenets are that there can be no more than 14 hours per week of regularly scheduled programming from outside sources, and "regularly scheduled entertainment-type musical programming shall be produced locally only."

But KAOS programming does not actually operate strictly within these guidelines. A glance at the latest program guide shows how KAOS has strayed: There are over 19 hours of non-local programs per week, and the non-locally produced world music show "Putumayo" (aired on Friday afternoons) is exactly the type of program that the policy forbids. These issues are central to the current debate at KAOS over station direction: Should the local music policy be changed, or should the station clean up its schedule and renew commitment to the policy?

HSP: Part II

In '94, once KAOS was firmly seated in its remodeled offices and the satellite dish was up and running, Huntsberger dusted off David LePage's HSP report and circulated copies around the station. On the cover letter, he states that LePage's report had already been "informally adopted as a blueprint for future station development," and that he planned to use the document "as a guide for future initiatives." But, Huntsberger remembers, "There was no collective will to go there." But collective will or not, in the last six years all of the major changes suggested by LePage have been acted on. Let's go through the major recommendations found in LePage's report:

1. LePage recommended KAOS increase its signal strength. Within the next year, this long-term project will finally be completed, and KAOS' potential audience will double to 140,000 listeners.

2. LePage recommended that KAOS replace students with professionals in the areas of key management positions. He especially stressed the importance of switching from a student to a professional program director, but, says Huntsberger, "given [KAOS'] relationship with the college, even if we'd wanted to do that it would have been politically extremely difficult." This is because KAOS is useful to Evergreen as a training ground for students in station management. Instead, three years ago management created a programming com-

(Continued next page)

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(KAOS, continued)

mittee made up of the student director, all the professional staff, and one programmer. The programming committee now makes decisions that the student program director used to make alone- and professional staff people have the majority vote.

3. LePage also recommended KAOS use market research as a basis for programming changes (with a special recommendation for KAOS to use stricter block programming) in order to increase listeners, listener loyalty, and underwriters for the station. He gave a special recommendation for KAOS to use stricter block programming, which breaks the day into blocks of time devoted to a particular type of show (for example, a jazz and classical music block from 1-3 p.m., or a talk radio block from 7-10 p.m.)

In the summer of '99, KAOS management did in fact begin a community audit based on marketing techniques. The audit process aimed to shed light on how the community perceives KAOS, and was going to consist of two series of focus groups. Then in July, before the first phase of focus groups was completed, management circulated an audit interim report that was highly critical of station programming and named specific changes that would happen in response to the audit results. Many volunteer programmers responded with alarm and skepticism, partly because there had been no public, all-station discussion of the audit or of specific station changes beforehand. Many programmers had not even heard that an audit was being conducted.

The community audit report sparked a sequence of events this summer: First, tension over the audit's purpose and the way it was conducted renewed conflict between Huntsberger and programmer Austin Kelley, who had longstanding programming and station direction disagreements. A final blow-out led to Huntsberger's choice to suspend Kelley with a recommendation for termination. Kelley is still struggling to get back on the air at KAOS, citing workplace harrassment, but college administration refuses to grant permission.

The audit created tension throughout the station, which led to at least one all-station discussion meeting. When Huntsberger unexpectedly resigned in July, the feeling of drama increased. Some programmers began to talk about organizing, and they continue to hold monthly meetings in order to share skills and build community amongst themselves. Over the summer, some station workers talked about continuing the audit in a way that would allow volunteer participation, but now three of the original project leaders have left and the audit has been set aside indefinitely.

4. Finally, LePage's report recommended the establishment of a mission statement, since the station did not have one.

Around the time the HSP report was circulated in '94, some staff and programmers formed a committee to write a mission statement. The inclusive process produced a page-long mission that quoted federal requirements, listed specific disenfranchised groups KAOS intends to serve in the Olympia area ("women, people of color, physically challenged people, gay, lesbian, bisexual and working class people,") and outlined the station's purpose in detail, using strong, even radical language.

But a year or two later the mission statement was quietly replaced by professional and student management. Many programmers did not know it was being rewritten. The new mission statement, which remains in effect today, is one-third the length of the first one. It is much more general, and does not include KAOS' legal requirements or the list of marginalized communities that KAOS intends to serve.

Those who created the second mission statement claim that the first was unduly restricting because it was so detailed, and that its list of marginalized communities was non-inclusive: "Whenever you make a list, you leave something out," says programmer John Ford, who was KAOS news director at that time and helped write the second mission statement. But programmer Diana Arens, who helped lead the process that led to the first mission statement, says the list provides a clear view of who KAOS intends to serve, and that the list could have been added to whenever the need arose. She now feels "disappointment and frustration at management's attempt to simplify who the station is for, and then act as though we don't know."

This issue continues to be integral to the larger discussion of station direction. Who has the right to decide KAOS' mission? The issue of which mission statement is better aside, we're still left with the question of whether it's acceptable for managers to erase a decision made by a committee when they don't like the way the group process turned out.

The other major issue touched upon here is to what extent, and in what ways, does KAOS aim to serve disenfranchised communities? Class, race, indigenous identity, gender, "dis"-ability, age, sexual orientation- These are tough issues to talk about in public. They are also tough issues for privileged people to be honest about, even in the privacy of our own minds. But if KAOS is going to choose its direction as a group, then the discussion has to happen. Because although it's assumed by many to be a given that liberals want "cultural diversity," the fact is that community stations like KAOS are primarily supported by listener donations. And statistically speaking, able-bodied people, white people, men, and college-graduates as listeners are going to tend to have more extra cash to contribute to their favorite station. This fact has changed the direction of many a community station in the recent past, and it can affect KAOS' direction as well if its commitment to oppressed communities begins to fade.

What's Happening Today

Since Micheal Huntsberger left at the end of August, other professional managers have temporarily parceled out his duties. The hiring process for a new permanent general manager is just beginning -- The committee has been appointed by station professionals and college administrators: all three professional KAOS staff and a handful of college administrators, plus one student staff member and one programmer will sit on the hiring squad. They plan to immediately publicize the position, to screen and interview throughout November and December, and select a new general manager by January '01.

The antenna move has hit an obstacle, but will hopefully be completed by next summer. When the antenna's up, KAOS will reach as far as Tenino, encompassing many rural communities.

And Internet streaming has begun, but workers are still tinkering with it because it's coming in choppy. The controversial community audit process, which raised so many eyebrows and questions as to station direction this summer, has been set aside indefinitely. And programmers have begun to meet regularly, in order to share information and skills, and increase their sense of cohesion and community in the face of the many station changes.

Listenership Down?

Although it is difficult to gauge listenership, some believe that it's slipping. KAOS annually purchases figures from Arbitron, a large company that polls the popularity of television and radio stations. Their recent readings have shown KAOS' audience to be so small that it's unmeasurable. But many doubt the authority of Arbitron's figures. One important consideration is that the company does not poll in the 98505 area code, which encompasses the far west side and the college itself. And they don't poll anyone who's had their telephone number for less than a year- that includes most students and many young adults. These and other factors cause Arbitron's readings to be, in Training and Operations manager Juli Kelen's words, "very suspect."

However, Kelen does believe KAOS' listenership is slipping, because biannual membership fundraising drives (sometimes referred to as "Beg-a-thons") have been pulling in less money. But even this issue is controversial to some programmers, who say changes in recent changes in fundraising tactics may have caused a decrease in listener response.

Is KAOS really a diminishing resource? Bill Wake isn't so sure. He sees political awareness increasing in our community and says that as awareness grows, interest in alternative media sources will necessarily grow too. The changing political climate combined with an increased antenna range and Internet streaming, Wake argues, will in the long run make KAOS an expanding resource, rather than a diminishing one.

KAOS' next era will be decided above all else by the answer to one question: To what extent is it a community radio station? A functioning community radio station is of, by and for the community. KAOS is "for" the community (that is, its mission is to serve both the college and the wider community). To a large extent it is "by" the community (in that much of its day-to-day existence is carried out by volunteers). But it is not fully "of" the community, because volunteers and listeners do not sit side by side with management when major decisions are made, like those having to do with mission and direction. Or, if they do, their decisions can be swept away and replaced by management without discussion.

Should listeners and volunteers participate in deciding KAOS mission and direction? If the station becomes truly of, by and for the community, it will be because listeners and programmers have worked hard to make a place for themselves at the decision- making table. Also, station managers will have been patient (democracy is always less efficient than centralized decision- making,) and humble, because they will have given up some of their control at the station. And finally, the college administration will have been convinced that structural changes toward increased community input are a good idea, because they hold the license and the ultimate power of station control.

As Olympia's only community radio station, KAOS plays an important role by nurturing our local culture and providing us with relief from the blare of commercials and professional deejays' caricatured voices. It creates a space where intellectual and creative freedom are not just allowed, but encouraged, and anyone can gain access to the microphone. KAOS workers provide our community with important services, local voices, all kinds of music and programming that we can't hear anywhere else on the dial, and alternative news coverage. So I don't know what direction KAOS will go in during this new era, but I do know that what happens at KAOS matters to the larger community. ◆

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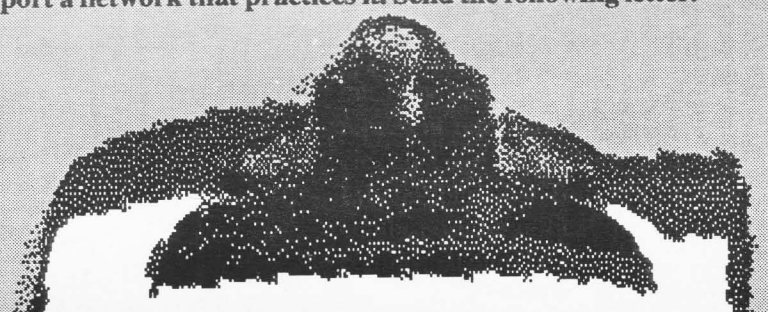
DEMOCRACY NOW! IN DANGER: Pacifica management turns against free speech

The censors at Pacifica Radio Network are at it again. This time, management has told Amy Goodman, host of Pacifica's *Democracy Now* (heard on KAOS weekdays at 9am), to tone down her message. According to station managers, Pacifica listeners want "softer stories" first thing in the morning. Goodman is also reportedly being pressured to break the freelance reporters' strike by filing stories for Pacifica Network News. It is once again time to remind Pacifica management that listeners-sponsors won't tolerate censorship, and that we won't support a network that practices it. Send the following letter.



TO: Pacifica Executive Director Bessie Wash & Pacifica board members,

We are deeply offended by management attempts to dilute the confrontational and controversial spirit of what has become Pacifica's signature program, Democracy Now.

We are further alarmed to note that this unethical and inappropriate pressure is being exercised against Amy Goodman and Democracy Now by the same governing organization that earlier sought to silence progressive voices by firing long-time Pacifica National Affairs correspondent Larry Bensky, and forcing the departure of bureau chief Dan Coughlin and news anchor Verna Avery Brown from the Pacifica Network News.

We have heard reports that some in Pacifica's management believe listeners would rather not hear about conditions in Peruvian prisons or the US financed drug war in Colombia as they are waking up in the morning. And, we've learned that some have criticized Goodman's "in your face" style. Those issues, and their bold and intelligent presentation, are precisely what has made Democracy Now a well-known and well-respected national program, and unfortunately, the only one left on Pacifica's national airwaves.

We are further disturbed by reports of management attempts to force Democracy Now host Amy Goodman to file stories for Pacifica Network News. PNN's freelance reporters are on strike, and it is wrong to attempt to coerce an employee to cross their picket line, or to act against her conscience. Pacifica should know better. As listener-sponsors, we demand that you deal with the strike directly – by negotiating with the striking reporters.

Once again, your interference in editorial decision making is wrong, at best, and at worst, constitutes censorship. As listener-sponsors, we will not tolerate any attempts to water down the substance of Democracy Now, to force Goodman to alter her style, or to try to force her to cross a picket line.

Please respond as to your plans in this matter.

Sincerely,

Pacifica National Board

Bessie Wash, executive director	1-888-770-4944 x348,	FALCON1591@aol.com
David Acosta, chair	FAX: (713) 921-2780,	cpadga@aol.com
Ken Ford, vice chair	FAX: (202) 822-0369,	kford@nahb.com
Lynn Chadwick, former executive director, now "consultant"		lynnchad@aol.com
Dr. Mary Frances Berry, former chair	FAX: (202) 376-7558,	mfberry@sas.upenn.edu
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Leslie Cagan, WBAI		LeslieCagan@igc.org
Beth Lyons, WBAI		BethLyons@aol.com
Valerie Chambers, KPFT		VChamber@pop.uh.edu

For a full history of the turmoil at Pacifica, see Save Pacifica's chronology at: http://www.savepacifica.net/sofar.html

Will KAOS Support *Democracy Now!?*

by Austin Kelley

As I am writing this, Amy Goodman's fate hangs in our hands, in a very real way. Even more importantly, the future of Free Speech in America is in our hands, also in a quite literal sense. It's an important issue, in these times when Big Business and Big Brother are taking over everything. As I write, on Ocotber 23rd, KAOS has not yet taken action in support of Amy Goodman. This is made all the more problematic by the fact that I and another community member came to their general staff meeting of 9-9-00, ELEVEN days ago. We raised the issue of Amy, and got no support. At that time, they told us that they might not do anything about it, because they had heard on the NFCB-list that it was a hoax. They said they wanted more proof. I produced it -- I e-mailed probably 2 pieces of testimony from around the country each day, straight to Juli Kelen, until she told me she wasn't going to respond anymore to any of my communications, and then cut off contact. Last I heard (2 days ago), she had promised to sign the petition herself, but said that KAOS would not be signing on as a station, because she didn't know if the community would agree with such a decision. Today, after the release of the memo from Amy's personnel file, KAOS now finds that the issue is real enough to ensure listeners that they will cover the issue. They did not promise, however, to take a stand, or even try to solicit community input about taking any other action. Why was KAOS so quick to listen to this single source- the NFCB-list?

Here's what long-time Pacifica host Larry Bensky had to say to me and KAOS about the NFCB (National Federation of Community Broadcasters), ten days ago:

"Amy had meetings with a number of people in New York and at the Washington board meeting recently, at which she described, as I've heard it, numerous instances of harassment and warnings about the content of "Democracy Now. In addition, a producer not of her choosing was hired, a person whose background has nothing to do with what one expects from a progressive radio producer. NFCB, which Lynn Chadwick used to run, is hardly an unbiased source on this, or any, matter concerning Pacifica. I would suggest that if KAOS cares to check this out, they call either Amy herself or Dan Couglhin, who has been assigned to work with her."

Here's what Tracy Rosenberg of the Media Alliance had to share with me and KAOS eleven days ago:

"The NFCB has played a strange role in the Pacifica struggle, but I would not dismiss the fact that Karolyn Van Putten (National Board Member) and Valerie Van Isler (NY LAB Chair) are on the NFCB Board and clearly in a position to effect the official NFCB position when they choose to."

She refers, I think, to their long and close relationship to ex-NFCB ED, now also ex- Pacifica ED, Lynn Chadwick (the one who presided over Pacifica's atrocities last year in Berkeley). Michael Huntsberger, ex-Station Manager of KAOS, was long-time Board Chair of the NFCB so he is associated with these people too, as well as current NFCB ED Carol Pierson. We had to practically pull teeth last year in order to get KAOS to do anything about the take-over of KPFA in Berkeley, in spite of strong community pressure. As well, it is not clear to me how KAOS has voted on important NFCB resolutions, nor who decided, nor how they arrived at their decision.

Is KAOS committed to being a democratic community station, or not? It is we, the Community, who must hold KAOS accountable!

Here's what others are suggesting:
(I can't say it any better than this...)

"Pacifica is publicly claiming they want to expand their audience. The lie should be exposed by the immediate, public simultaneous cancellation of DN! by all affiliates on certain contingencies, including but limited to, Amy being fired, Amy quitting under duress, same for Juan Gonzalez, or a story done by Amy that airs on PNN and is not evidently something she did on DN that PNN heisted. An action like that might even garner some mainstream press attention."

From Kellia Ramares — Coordinator R.I.S.E (Radio Internet Story Exchange), Berkeley.

" KGNU will begin to announce thatif listeners care about Democracy Now and the work of Amy Goodman, theyshould contact [Pacifica bosses] Wash, Yasko or Ford to affirm their support. We have a public meeting on Pacifica already scheduled for Wednesday, Oct 25, where we'll show the video, KPFA on the Air, and then discuss what to do."

From Marty Durlin, Station Manager of KGNU in Boulder Colorado.

"I don't fault writing the good letter below, but in all reality,[Pacifica boss] Berry and gang not only don't care about important news being disseminated, they specifically do not want the truth in news disseminated - since they speak for the corporations now... the whole point, obviouslyof this attack on FREE SPEECH which must be remembered not as PACIFICA stations alone, who have been a great voice for free speech, but they are not FREE SPEECH itself. they are one of the vehicles (as are the micro-stations, Internet) of getting the news to the people and the fight is not about saving PACIFICA, including saving KPFA, it is about saving our citizen's rights in this country, fighting censorship in all corners, and should not be seen as separate from the whole."

From Dorothy Beagle in New York.

For information on Olympia-based efforts to stand up for *Democracy Now!*, call me at 352-8526. ◆

Demonstrations in 50 Cities Target CITIGROUP

by Patrick Reinsborough

The day Citigroup announced its $3.1 billion third quarter income and record year to date earnings, in more than fifty cities concerned citizens held protests targeting the corporation, demanding that Citigroup stop reaping financial gain at the expense of local communities and the environment. Groups protesting Citigroup from coast to coast called for an end to the corporation's financing for environmentally and socially destructive projects. Today's events kicked off an international campaign aimed at transforming Citigroup's funding practices.

"The record $9.7 billion year to date income Citigroup announced today came at the unacceptably high cost of environmental devastation and economic injustice," said Ilyse Hogue of the Rainforest Action Network. "Citigroup continues to operate without basic environmental or social standards despite the American public's demand for responsible financial services."

Across the U.S. and in foreign countries including South Africa, Canada and Brazil groups joined in protest, proclaiming Citigroup "the World's Most Destructive Bank." In New York City, students cut up a giant Citibank credit card to represent the thousands of students across the nation who have refused to do business with Citi until the company cleans up its act. In New Haven, students announced the divestment of $100,000 by Yale professors and staff from their Citigroup accounts in protest of the bank's funding practices. Demonstrations were held in other U.S. cities including Seattle, San Francisco, Las Vegas, Boston, Washington D.C. and on campuses across the country.

Students, environmentalists, human rights activists and economic justice advocates who have been at the forefront of the growing, non-violent movement protesting corporate-led globalization, are now turning their attention towards Citigroup and its contribution towards bankrolling environmental destruction around the globe.

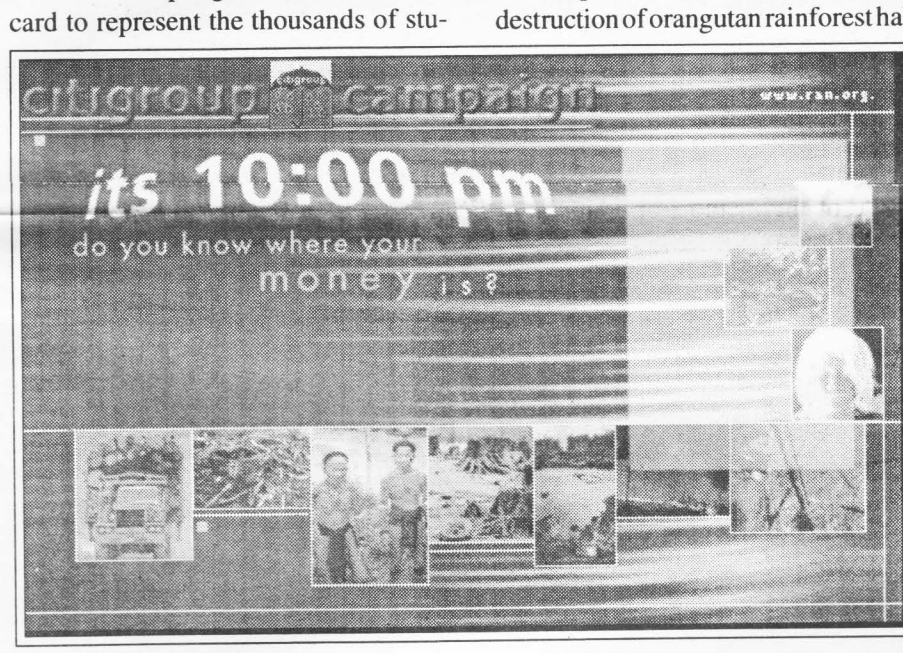
"Students are outraged that Citigroup is using our money in an irresponsible fashion. When I agreed to pay back my student loan from Citigroup, I did not agree to fund oil pipelines through African rainforest and mining in the Amazon basin," said Katherine Legomsky of Yale University.

Demonstrators drew attention to Citigroups connection to egregious projects around the world such as the controversial Chad-Cameroon oil pipeline, China 's Three Gorges Dam which will displace 2 million people, and the destruction of orangutan rainforest habitat in Indonesian for palm plantations. Speakers at events around the U.S. also highlighted Citigroup's policies of subprime or 'predatory lending' in urban areas that disproportionately affect people with lower incomes and communities of color, as well as the corporation's sale of World Bank Bonds that strap developing nations with increasing debt.

"In holding Citigroup accountable, our work and movements around different issues are naturally converging. This is the next step of the civil rights, consumer and community movements, as well as the wider human rights and environmental movements," stated Matthew Lee, Executive Director of the Bronx-based Inner City Press.

Organizations endorsing or participating in the events include: N.Y. Direct Action Network, Free The Planet!, Ruckus Society, Global Exchange, Student Environmental Action Coalition, CitiAction, Democratic Socialists of America, Ecopledge.com, Critical Resistance, Just Act, The Prison Moritorium Project, STARC, Project Underground, Neighborhood Economic Development Advocacy Project and the World Bank Bonds Boycott.

For more information on the Beyond the Bottomline campaign to confront Citigroup and transform the global financial system please see www.ran.org



Noteworthy Citigroup Facts:

- Citigroup has 459 offices in over one hundred countries.
- Citigroup held total assets of almost $700 billion in 1999. This is more than the GNP of many countries.
- According to Citigroup, 250 of the Fortune 500 companies use its services.
- Citigroup has spent over $18 million to influence the United States' political system over the last four years.

What You Can Do

Consumers have a critical role to play as the *source* of the money used by Citigroup to fund destructive projects. Citigroup profits largely by channeling consumer money —our money — into corporate projects. This makes Citigroup highly vulnerable to the public's demands for sustainable business practices. It's up to us to answer the question: Will we have a global society based on principles or on corporate profits? Whether you are an activist,an investor, or a concerned citizen, you can let Citigroup know that you won't be a part of corporate-funded destruction.

Here's what you can do:

1. **Cut up your Citibank credit card. Mail the cut up card back to Citibank in your next bill statement, along with a note letting Citibank know why you no longer want to be a customer.**
2. **Move your Citibank/Salomon Smith Barney account to another institution and let Citibank/Salomon Smith Barney know why you are moving the account.**
3. **If you are not currently a Citigroup customer, call Citigroup and let them know that you will never be a customer unless they change their business practices.**

Call Citigroup: 1-800-456-4277
- - - - - - - - or write - - - - - - - -
Mr. Sandy Weill
Chairman and CEO
Citigroup
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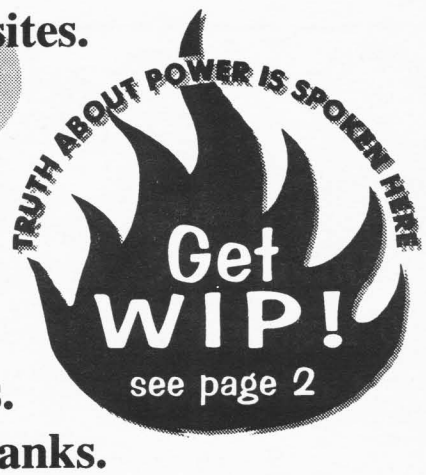
Works In Progress is a 10-year old alternative newspaper in Olympia & Thurston County. WIP challenges the corporate media by remaining committed to confronting oppression and encouraging action around issues of economic, social, and environmental justice.

WIP is not a 501C3 nonprofit. WIP does not pay any of its workers, because we don't have a means to. We are 10 to 20 volunteers that do everything from collect and write articles, do layout, paste-up, sell advertising, proofread, distribute, make mailing labels, fold & stamp issues for mailing, and replenish distribution sites.

Please consider that each issue costs roughly $500^{00} to produce. WIP also mails 20 free subscriptions to incarcerated people and has other bills to pay such as for toner cartridges, disks, gas money, paper, PO Box rental, etc. Please donate money if you support alternative media, our mission, or the paper you hold in your hands.

Thanks.



what is wip about?

Capitalism and Climate Change

Dave Zink

Have you ever experienced a "Greenhouse Effect"? You have if you've ever gotten into your car on a sunny day and the air inside feels hot enough to roast a turkey. Just as car windows allow sunlight in and trap the heat inside your car, certain gases allow sunlight in, then, instead of allowing the heat to reflect back into space, trap the heat within the Earth's atmosphere. For this reason, carbon dioxide (CO2), methane, certain halogenated hydrocarbons, and nitrous oxide are termed "greenhouse gases".

This "greenhouse effect" is natural. Without it, the Earth would be a frozen rock spinning through space. Too much, and the Earth would be a hot barren rock spinning through space.

The Problem

Globally, the warmest year on record was 1998. Seven of the hottest years on record have occurred since 1990.

Sea level rise of almost a foot in the last century has caused saltwater intrusion into some coastal drinking water wells and destroyed beaches and wetlands around the world.

Polar and sub-Arctic regions have been experiencing warming well above the average for the past few decades. Thousands of square miles of Antarctic ice shelves collapsed and melted in the late 1990's. The area covered by sea ice decreased by about 6% from 1978-1995. Based on analysis of ice-core drilling samples from polar glaciers, scientists are saying that large bodies of open water right on the North Pole are appearing for the first time in 50, 000 years. From the Himalayas to Africa's Mt. Kilimanjaro, and around the world, alpine glaciers are also shrinking.

To most people who have survived an icy northern winter, reports of a warming climate probably comes as good news. What can be bad about longer summers, and shorter, less severe winters? If that was all there was to it, this would be good news. But along with the warmer temperatures, climatologists are warning that we can expect some unpleasant things like more frequent intense storms, gradual rise in sea level, flooding the coastlines on which the majority of people live, displacement of wildlife, hurricanes, hotter/drier summers, wetter winters, and the spread of tropical diseases. Some areas may actually get colder. That's why the problem is perhaps better termed "Global Climate Change".

Studies have documented other dangers of climate change. Persistent neurological toxins such as DDT, banned in the US and Canada decades ago, are still used in many tropical countries. These chemicals evaporate into the atmosphere, then return to earth in snowflakes that fall in higher latitudes, where they are stored in glacial ice. Glacier melt increases the rate at which these compounds are released into the environment, where they get concentrated up the food chain. They are now turning up in dangerously high levels in the breast milk of Eskimo mothers.

Doctors at the Harvard Medical School have linked recent US outbreaks and the extension in the range of many insect- and water-borne diseases such as dengue ("breakbone") fever, malaria, Hantavirus, and schistosomiasis to the warming climate. As yet, no suitable vaccines exist for many of the diseases most likely to spread as a result of the anticipated climate change.

By pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and destroying the Earth's ability to cleanse herself and maintain climatic stability, capitalism is delivering a devastating 1-2 punch to our environment.

By pumping greenhouse gases into the atmosphere, and destroying the Earth's ability to cleanse herself and maintain climatic stability, capitalism is delivering a devastating 1-2 punch to our environment. Suburban sprawl is displacing natural vegetation and cropland at an alarming rate. Unlike forest and grassland, parking lots and strip malls don't absorb CO2, nor produce oxygen.

In 1997, in negotiations leading to the Kyoto Treaty, the United Nations set up an Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) to investigate whether Global Warming is real or not, and what dangers it poses. The IPCC commissioned 2,500 of the world's top climate scientists, including eight Nobel laureates to participate in this research.

What conclusions did the IPCC reach?

1. There is evidence of a 25% increase in atmospheric CO2 concentration since pre-industrial times.
2. The balance of evidence supports the view that Global Warming is caused by such human activities as fossil fuel combustion, and clear-cutting and burning of forests.
3. Although there is uncertainty and disagreement on any future timetable of events, the long-term trend for an increase in both global temperature and sea surface temperature is unequivocal. The warming is projected to be greater than any seen in the last 10,000 years.
4. If current rates of fossil fuel burning continue, sea levels will rise from between 15 to 95 cm.

Since the IPCC report is the best science we have available, prudence dictates that we use it as a guildeline for the reduction of greenhouse gas emissions. If not averted, continued warming may mean a sea-level rise that would cause the flooding of Louisiana, Florida, Bangla Desh, coastal cities like New York City, London, and Jakarta, small island nations, and other low-lying areas around the world. These areas are densely populated. This would cause catastrophic population displacement and shifts. You may be getting some new neighbors. **Lots** of them.

The "debate"

The Kyoto Treaty does have some serious shortcomings that serve to illustrate how corporate-dominated globalism is the chief stumbling block to the resolution of international environmental problems. Since most industrialized nations have fairly stringent controls on greenhouse gas emissions, the protocol will encourage businesses that intend to pollute to move to third world locations where the treaty stipulates fewer or no controls. This will promote the migration of jobs to low-wage areas around the world. The likely result is even more pollution than we have now. It is becoming increasingly evident that solving global environmental problems will require a better global economic system than capitalism.

What is the current status of the Kyoto Treaty? Island nations throughout the world are strong supporters. The European Union countries accepted the Kyoto Protocol, and are trying to achieve lowered emissions. The Treaty hasn't been submitted to the U.S. Congress yet because of strong opposition. Key members of Congress have indicated that the treaty will be ratified over their dead bodies because they say it would harm the U.S. economy. The Republican-controlled Senate would either vote it down or not let it out of committee. It will take 65 countries to ratify the treaty, but it won't be worth much if the U.S. doesn't sign it.

The current debate is not over whether the climate is warming. Most scientists now agree on that. The debate now centers on questions regarding how quickly and how much the Earth is warming. The issue is complex because climate is affected by a mixture of natural events, such as volcanic activity, solar energy fluctuations, and changes in oceanic water circulation. (Usha Lee McFarling, from the Los Angeles Times, 23 Feb 2000.) Dr. Michael E. Schlesinger, a climatologist at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, says it is particularly important for policy makers and the public not to assume that temperature trends will follow a smooth rise. The array of factors is so complex that temporary fluctuations along an upward trend could create confusion and hamper work that could help solve the problem.

Rather than admitting that our increasing use of petroleum products and coal is altering our climate, the companies that are making profits out of fossil fuel and the powerful auto industry are spending millions of dollars in an effort to discredit the IPCC and global warming. Claiming that global warming is nothing but an "alarmist hoax", they have set out to buy the kind of "science" they want, and politicians are paying attention to corporate-funded "climate experts".

The "Climate Skeptics", a handful of scientists, many directly subsidized by the fossil fuel lobby, are promoting what most mainstream scientists regard as blatant misinformation on climate science. Corporate-funded front groups base their arguments on a combination of deliberate misrepresentation of IPCC reports, contextual inaccuracy, and unsubstantiated conclusions. (From Greenpeace: "Campaign to Save the Climate".) They emphasize the disagreements at the Kyoto Conference, but don't talk much about the overwhelming agreement on the basics. They say that even if global warming was for real, so what? It would be a good deal. Benefits would include longer growing seasons, more precipitation, and less stress on wildlife.

This picture of a greener, more productive world is attractive, but would increased CO2 concentrations really bring this about? While elevated CO2 have been shown to increase plant growth and water use efficiency under controlled conditions (such as in the lab or a greenhouse), doubt exists over how much of this benefit will be realized in the real world. We are living in a time of unprecedented clearing of forests and destruction of coral reefs. As well as producing CO2 and other greenhouse gases, burning fossil fuels is also the major cause of acid rain (sulfur dioxide combines with water vapor to form sulfuric acid), urban smog, soot particles (which cause respiratory illnesses) and other environmental problems. The USA is the world's worst global warming polluter, accounting for 23 % of emissions worldwide, while comprising only 4% of the world's population (from the Sierra Club Global Warming web site).

Business-as-usual is not only causing these problems, but, by increasing our reliance on imported oil, is also increasing the likelihood for more destructive oil spills and international tensions.

The real problem

Human-induced climate change is basically a pollution problem. Over its lifetime, the average car on the road today will spew out 50 tons of CO2 into the air. No solution to this problem will succeed until we can reduce automotive emissions and improve fuel efficiency

(Continued next page)

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"Just a splash from Heritage Fountain & Capitol Lake"

(Climate, continued)

and/or increase the use of alternative technologies such as fuel cells. The most important single step we can take to curb global warming is to make our cars go further on a gallon of gas. Raising the fuel economy standards in the US to 45 mpg for cars and 34 for light trucks would keep millions of tons of CO2 out of the air. Our cars, trucks, lawnmowers, and power plants could be made much more efficient simply by using better current technology. Vehicles like the Toyota Prius and the Honda Civic VX have shown that with simple advances in technology, today's cars can get over 50 miles per gallon.

So what's stopping us? These common-sense measures run smack into powerful corporate interests. A recent report from the Natural Resources Defense Council and Union of Concerned Scientists points out that 80% of greenhouse gases are produced by only 122 corporations. Exploitation of fossil fuel resources is easier and far more lucrative for the oil companies than the development of solar or wind power. These corporations are jeopardizing the integrity of the entire global ecosystem, endangering the future for all children, and holding the world's people and governments hostage by a combination of bribery and brute force.

At present, governments are using taxpayers' money to carry out the corporate agenda. Development of solar, wind, and other clean energy is neglected. Instead, our tax dollars are subsidizing the fossil fuel industry, the chief source of greenhouse gas emissions. At the same time, the Federal Government is auctioning off logging rights to our National Forests to timber companies at the rate of pennies per tree. The logging companies are also allowed to deduct the costs of building stream-killing logging roads from their bids. Often, the cost of building these roads exceeds the company's bid for timber. Net results: For the corporations: cheap timber. For the rest of us: the loss of all those CO2-absorbing trees, as well as loss of wildlife habitat, recreation areas, and air and water quality.

Why do we allow such antisocial – even sociopathic – behavior to go unrewarded by prison sentences for those CEOs and boards of directors responsible for these crimes ? Perhaps a better question would be: How long will it take until the majority finally begin waking to the fact that it is the capitalist system itself that is the criminal and must be summarily dealt with ?

Regarding the environment and natural resources, our species has too often played the role of a "Bull in a China Closet". A widespread realization is growing that we need to start treating our life-support system with more respect. Because of the high priority it places on short-term corporate profit maximization, capitalism tends to exacerbate this tendency. The profit mania pushes other considerations, like the need to preserve a healthy environment, off the stage.

A living planet is a rarity. The Earth is the only one we know of so far. The planet Venus is a good example of a runaway greenhouse effect that we would do well to pay attention to. It would make a great place to send some of our favorite corporate CEOs for a l-o-n-g educational sabbatical. If there ever was any sign of life on that planet, the greenhouse effect has long since obliterated it. If we fail to take preventive steps, technological civilization may not outlive capitalism. This may be a less desirable way of allowing the Earth to bring itself back into climatic equilibrium.

Instead of yielding to the power of advertising, "People should buy a vehicle appropriate to their needs," says Dan Becker, director of the Sierra Club's global warming program. They shouldn't buy one that climbs mountains and pulls yachts [and gets only 24 miles per gallon or less] if they're just going to use it to drive to work and pick up the kids from school."

Under the rules of the capitalist system, corporations are compelled to maximize gains and minimize costs or lose to the competition. They do this by privatizing gains and externalizing costs to the commons. For too long, the environment has served as a free sewer to dump corporate wastes. Costs of cleanup are a public cost, financed by our tax dollars. At the same time, the wealthy and their corporations have successfully lobbied over the years to lower their share of the tax burden, shifting it onto the backs of the working class.

Gasoline-combustion engines are really no longer necessary. We have the technology to move to solar energy for electricity and hydrogen-burning engines that produce only water vapor as exhaust. Cleaner, renewable sources of energy are available, affordable, and waiting to be developed.. Adopting this technology in the U.S. would be great for the economy, create 770,000 jobs, save $530 per household per year, and significantly reduce the threat of global warming. [1]

The capitalist system is acting as a cork on the teapot of human inventiveness and innovation. If something is profitable to corporations, it happens - even if it is detrimental to the vast majority of people, our communities, and our global life-support system. But if something is not seen as profitable - even if it would be beneficial to the majority - then, sorry, corporations aren't interested. The deciding factor, the highest priority of capitalism, is short-term profit maximization for the corporations.

Cars that get more miles per gallon may be better for us and our environment, but oil companies are in business to make a profit. The more gasoline they sell, the more money they make. A major reason why capitalism fouls things up is that the command decisions regarding which technologies are utilized are made by CEOs in the narrow interests of major corporate stockholders, not by those who do the work and who must live with the consequences of those decisions.

The solution

Environmental education is important in instilling an environmental ethic in our children. It is an effort worthy of defending and strengthening. But corporate-financed critics are saying that this is an effort to brainwash our kids and fosters a "gloom and doom" perspective. They cite all kinds of reasons that environmental education should be dismantled, but make their most scathing attacks on the science of climate change, ozone depletion, deforestation, species extinction, and acid rain. They stress that environmental educators ought to be teaching that the "free enterprise system" provides the best environmental protection. An estimated two million teachers have received this kind of material from various companies and trade associations, and dollar-strapped schools are increasingly accepting corporate-developed curricula. This tends to have a chilling effect on the willingness of teachers, school administrators, and parents to push for sound environmental education curricula. (From the Washington State office, National Audubon Society.) Just because you've managed to survive capitalism so far, doesn't mean your kids will!

The crucial question is how to shake our fellow citizens out of their stupor and wage a more effective campaign to dispel capitalist illusions. It is the so-called "free-enterprise system" - as a euphemism for capitalism – that got us into this mess to begin with! Let us be clear on this: "Free Enterprise" can **only** be truly free when we, the working class majority, join together and democratically decide what is produced, how it is to be produced, and how the rewards are to be allocated. Only then can we disempower the parasites who are systematically stealing the wealth labor creates, and wrecking the environment we all depend upon.

As workers, we need to move beyond paycheck issues and transform our unions into class- and environmentally-conscious, militant organizations that are also concerned with wresting control over such issues as technological change to enhance, not damage, environmental health. We need to build on last winter's WTO experience in Seattle, in which thousands of workers and environmentalists joined forces as allies in struggle against arrogant trans-national corporations that are using the World Trade Organization to suppress human and worker rights, and environmental quality. Sooner or later - and the sooner the better - we need take the struggle into our workplaces, to take, hold, and operate the offices and factories for ourselves. For it is only in that way that we'll be able to start building a cooperative economic democracy that will fundamentally change this world for the better.

Much of the material in this essay was adapted from Rachel's Health & Environment Weekly. To find out more about one of the best news services on the Internet, go to http://www.rachel.org

The Sierra Club's Global Warming information site is http://www.toowarm.com/CAFÉ/factsheets

[1.] Energy Innovations: A Prosperous Path to a Cleaner Environment (Washington DC: American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy, http://www.tellus.org/ei/eireport.html) ◆

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The Olympia Food Co-op

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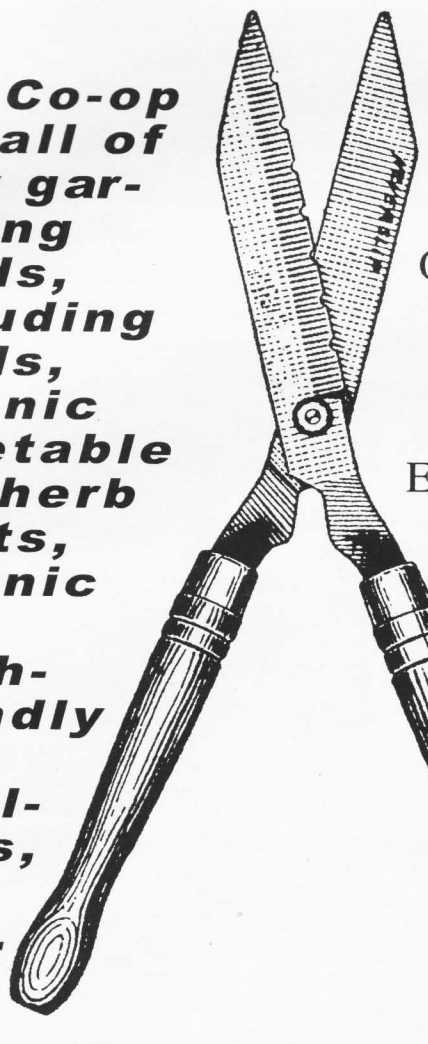

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Member-Owned and Collectively Managed through Consensus Decision Making

Briefs, continued

(5th & Water St.)

The Heartsparkle Players and the Olympia Fellowship of Reconciliation will collaborate to explore the power of nonviolence. Through the technique of Playback Theater, audience members are invited to share their stories on a particular theme. Then the Heartsparkle Players immediately act out the stories with understanding, empathy, wisdom, and a positive message. The performance will focus on brief stories audience members share about their actual experiences dealing with conflict, injustice, and personal or systemic violence. This a collaboration is a part of the Olympia FOR ongoing series of activities to help carry out the International Decade for a Culture of Peace and Nonviolence for the Children of the World and to build a culture of peace and nonviolence in the Thurston County area. Call 491-9093 for info.

Silent Auction and Benefit Dinner

Bread and Roses will host a Silent Auction and a Benefit Dinner Saturday, December 2, 2000 at United Methodist Church of Olympia located at 1224 East Legion Way. Doors will open at 5:00 p.m. with bidding and hors-d'oeuvres. A small program will begin at 6:00 p.m. with dinner starting at 6:30. Suggested donations of $15 for a single person and $25 for a couple will be taken at the door, but no one will be turned away. Bread and Roses is a non-profit organization that operates a soup kitchen, drop in center, and a homeless shelter serving single women and families in Olympia.

This event provides the community an opportunity to learn more about Bread and Roses, celebrate our successes, support future operations, and spotlight some of our wonderful volunteers. This is a great opportunity to do holiday shopping while supporting a great organization helping those in our community. For more information or if you have any questions, contact Bonnie at 704-4248. We hope to see you there!

PFLAG's Meeting

Sunday, Nov. 12th at 2pm

United Methodist Church

Open meeting: meet the newly nominated board members, share your ideas about where our collective energy can create change, and offer suggestions for future meeting programs. Parents, Families and Friends of Lesbians and Gays is here to promote the health and well-being of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons, their families and friends through: support, to cope with an adverse society; education, to enlighten an ill-informed public; and advocacy, to end discrimination and to secure equal civil rights. PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation and gender identity, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. Call 866-0511 for info.

Welfare Rights Organizing

WROC's planning and organizing meetings take place the **first Monday of each month from 5:30pm until 8pm at First United Methodist Church**, 5th and Boundary, downtown. WROC's support and information meeting is the third Tuesday of the month at Evergreen Vista Apartments, on the West Side of Olympia. Dinner and free childcare are provided at all meetings, and people can call 352-9716 for more info.

WORKER QUIZ

Your Rights at Work...

You work at a fast food restaurant. One day the owner comes in and orders you to take off the Save the Whales button you are wearing.

The owner is in a really bad mood. He told a guy that works there to get a haircut before coming back- to work.

He told a woman to remove a necklace cross she was wearing. He ordered another worker to stop - bringing magazines to work.

Then he searched employee lockers while they were working, looking for stolen goods.

When he overheard workers on break talking about what he was doing, he ordered them to stop bellyaching and said anyone who disagreed with his policies must be guilty of the thievery he is investigating.

He punished one worker be thinks has been stealing things by ordering him to clean the fryer, even though it wasn't his turn.

When the worker said be was innocent and has the right to prove it, the boss told him the only Constituitional right he has is to look for work elsewhere. Anyone who disobeys his orders he announced will be fired.

How many constitutional rights is the boss violating? Unfortunately, the answer is none. In today's United States, you are employed "at will" and you check your rights at the door every time you go to work - unless you have a union, that is. If you have a union, you can negotiate a contract wit your employer to protect yourself from the actions taken by this restaurant owner.

Adapted from UAW's *Solidarity*.

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Local Labor Standards for Clothing

I'm writing to let you all know about a meeting coming up on Thursday, November 2nd concerning a campaign just getting started in our area to set labor standards for the clothing that the City of Olympia, local high schools, the Evergreen State College, and other public institutions buy. The meeting will last from 6:30 until 8:30pm, and it will be held at Traditions Cafe, 5th Avenue and Water Street, just across from Capitol Lake.

Over the past several years, the garment industry has become notorious for its terrible treatment of its workers, and activists around the U.S. have been working in many different ways to help workers both here and abroad to improve their conditions. One extremely hopeful strategy is to push the institutions that are supposed to be accountable to us, such as our schools and our city governments, to set standards for the clothes they buy and to enforce those standards.

A widespread movement against sweatshops has been developing. Over the past two years, student activists at colleges around the country have pushed their administrations to establish "codes of conduct" that require companies that use their logos to respect their workers rights and to allow unionization. At the same time, union activists and community activists have been pushing local governments to pass laws setting standards for the uniforms and other clothes that public agencies buy.

Much of the clothing that city workers here in Olympia are required to wear and that local high schools and colleges buy is produced under horrendous conditions. A group of community activists, teachers, and college and high school students has come together to create a new anti-sweatshop/workers' rights coalition. We are working to educate about these issues and to win changes in buying policies in a few different institutions at once, and the more we work together and support each other, the more we can accomplish.

We're inviting everyone interested in the project to get involved in any way you can. November 2nd will be our first public meeting!

We will show a short video called "Sweating for a T-Shirt," present information about organizing efforts around the U.S. to set labor standards for college apparel and for the uniforms and other clothes that public agencies buy, and report on the work that's begun in Olympia. After that we'll have an open discussion and begin to make some concrete plans for the future.

We hope that our campaign can bring together a really broad range of people, and we hope that this first meeting will include representatives from many different groups.

Please come if you can, and please inform everyone you think might be interested. We should have fliers available to publicize the meeting soon. If you have any questions or suggestions, call Mitch Chanin at 570-9989.

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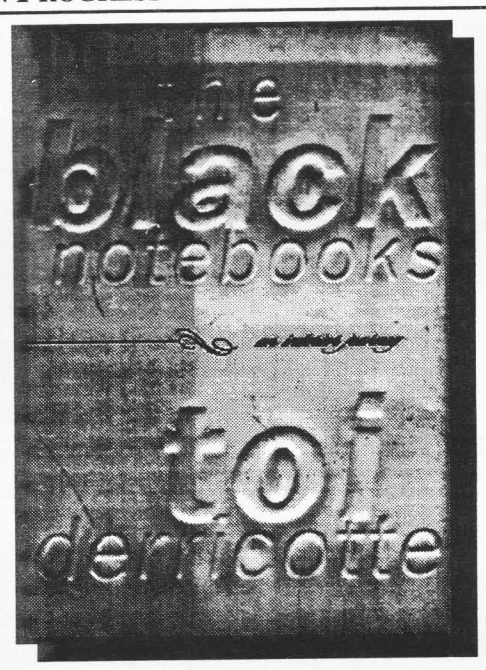
Book Review

The Black Notebooks



Teresa Carmody

***The Black Notebooks: An Interior Journey* by Toi Derricotte. New York, London: W.W. Norton & Company, 1997.**

If you bring forth what is within you, what is within you will save you. If you do not bring forth what is within you, what is within you will destroy you.
- Jesus, in the Gnostic Gospels.

In 1994, my Evergreen faculty wrote out an essay assignment – read Audre Lorde's essay "The Transformation of Silence into Language and Action," and write a personal essay in this style. I grappled for weeks on this assignment, and although I never produced an essay that measured up to what I wanted to write, I had found Audre Lorde. Time and again I have returned to her words, and to this essay – "...the transformation of silence into language and action is an act of self-revelation, and that always seems fraught with danger." Now, I have found Toi Derricotte and her book *The Black Notebooks*.

The Black Notebooks originated from the author's struggle with racism and internalized oppression as a black woman who is often perceived to be white. Dedicated in memory of Audre Lorde, Derricotte compiled over twenty years of journal entries which she wrote out of her "need to keep a record, to remember what I had forgotten in spite of the pain...only this time I had words." Derricotte uses those very words to weave a poetic rhythm into stories about her life-experiences. Her use of language left me breathless (I was literally holding my breath), and her stories convey the multiple layers of complexity, truth and pain in the construction of racism and internalized oppression.

Derricotte structures the book into thematically-based, titled sections. In "The Club," she describes grappling with severe depression after a tedious search for the perfect house, a search which led her family to move into an all-white neighborhood. Derricotte juxtapositions her depression and struggles with internalized racism against the fact that the neighborhood country club does not allow black members. In "Among School Children," Derricotte explores the formative constructions of race and racism through detailing some of her experiences teaching poetry to elementary school children. In "Diaries at an Artists Colony," she explores tokenism and the notion of "coming-out" as the only black artist at the colony. In "Face to Face," she continues to discuss the impact of "racing" herself to white people, while also exploring methods and consequences of confronting racism in others.

In the spirit of Audre Lorde, Derricotte truly does transform silence into language and action.

In the spirit of Audre Lorde, Derricotte truly does transform silence into language and action. Her words challenged me to confront the ways that I, as a white person, participate in and am affected by racism, while she graciously supplies the words with which to confront racism. Moreover, she renders the very personal and individual impact of internalized-oppression, while distinctly centering the private and personal within a wider social construct. Derricotte says "it was language that saved my life." As a reader, I am honored and awestruck by her courage to share that language with the world. ◆

(VOTE!, continued)

people because we can never have too many choices. The only really good thing about this year's GOP race was that it began as a serious race—with EIGHT candidates. Although I'm about as anti-GOP as one can be, as a voter I liked the idea of having such a relatively broad choice, and Republicans I spoke to were just ecstatic.

If you don't vote, then please, in January and February, don't tell me how much you honor Dr. King, Harriet Tubman, Fannie Lou Hamer, Medgar Evers, Bayard Rustin, Ella Baker and everyone else who fought for the right to vote. By not voting, you're turning your back on them and disparaging everything they gave their lives for. One of the reasons I vote—and in many election years it's not easy—is to honor them and everyone who followed them in the struggle for civil rights. They worked and fought and marched and bled and, too often, died so that you and I could vote and hold office, freely, without intimidation and violence. I'm keenly aware that as a black person, I've only been able to vote, effectively, for only the past 25 years. When I was born in 1961, many people of color were violently prevented from even registering, let alone voting—not just in the South but all over the country. And even if we could vote, all too often we knew better than to try to seek an elected office.

To those of you who DO vote, I can only say, "Thank you. Words can't express my gratitude to you." If you believe I haven't given much attention to you in this column, you're right—because you don't need it. In fact, I bet that most people who read this column DO vote. But there are some who don't, and it's to those folks I'm addressing this column.

A few weeks back, journalist/comedienne Joy Behar said that people don't vote any more because they're "too comfortable." She's right, but I'd like to share a little secret: If you want to STAY comfortable—let alone get more comfortable—you'd better get up and VOTE. Take a stake in your life, and in the lives of your loved ones who are too young to vote but who will be affected by the outcomes of elections. Because if you don't vote things will get even worse in this country—yes, even for you. And if they do, and your loved ones ask you how it happened, you'll find that looking into their faces, offering lame excuses will be a lot harder than voting ever was.

It's up to you.

In Cairo, leaders of the Arab League's nations gather to discuss the crisis in Palestine/Israel.

In Nigeria, tribal and ethnic divisions spark senseless violence.

In Montgomery, Ala., Morris Dees savors victory over the Aryan Nations.

And in Olympia, the fight for tenants' rights continues. ◆

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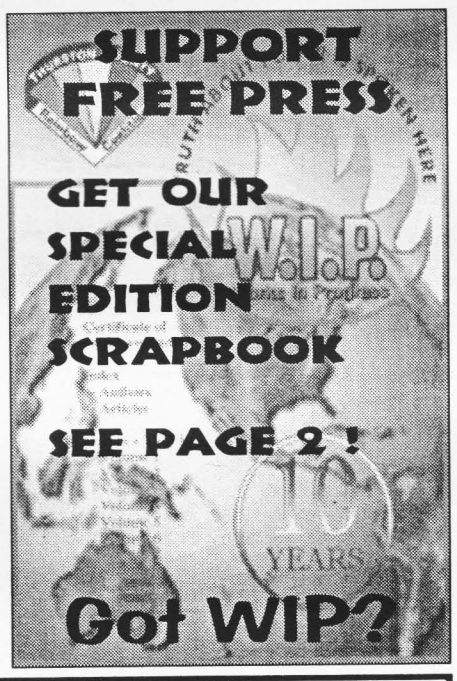

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Because of the huge number of letters Books to Prisoners - Olympia Support Group receives each month and its limited resources, requests often wait many months to be filled. Thousands of letters still remain in boxes. Your help and generosity are urgently needed.

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Please bring donations of books to the Books to Prisoner at Olympia World News at 116 4th Ave in downtown Olympia

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- Open drop in work/training sessions every Thurs. 3-9 pm in the back of Olympia World News. *Training takes 1 hour. Once you are trained you can work anytime we are open.*
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- **Save UPC code from Western Family Products &** send to B to P, 116 E 4th Ave, Olympia, WA 98501
- Shop at Bayview and Ralph's and use a special card and they'll donate $$ to BTP. Pick up your card at BTP now or call them and they'll mail one to you.

URGENT: If you have receipts from Bayview and Ralph's dated before July 1st, turn them in or mail them to BTP by July 10th so they can use them to pay the rent!

BEFORE YOU FORGET, SUBSCRIBE!

SEE PAGE 2

TRUTH ABOUT POWER IS SPOKEN HERE
W.I.P.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

NOVEMBER 2000

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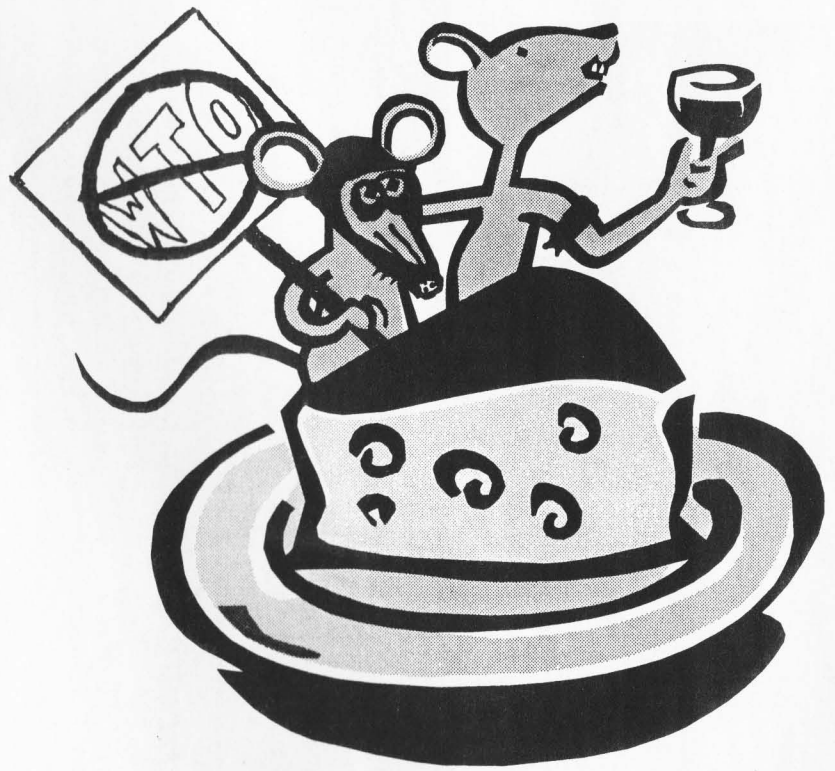


HAPPY N30!

Happy Anniversary to Those who Protested the WTO in Seattle One Year Ago

Inside:

History & Future of KAOS, continued

Shameless Vote Nader Propaganda, Update on Democracy Now...and MORE

1 Challenging the Sanction On Iraq & Gentrification in Downtown Olympia

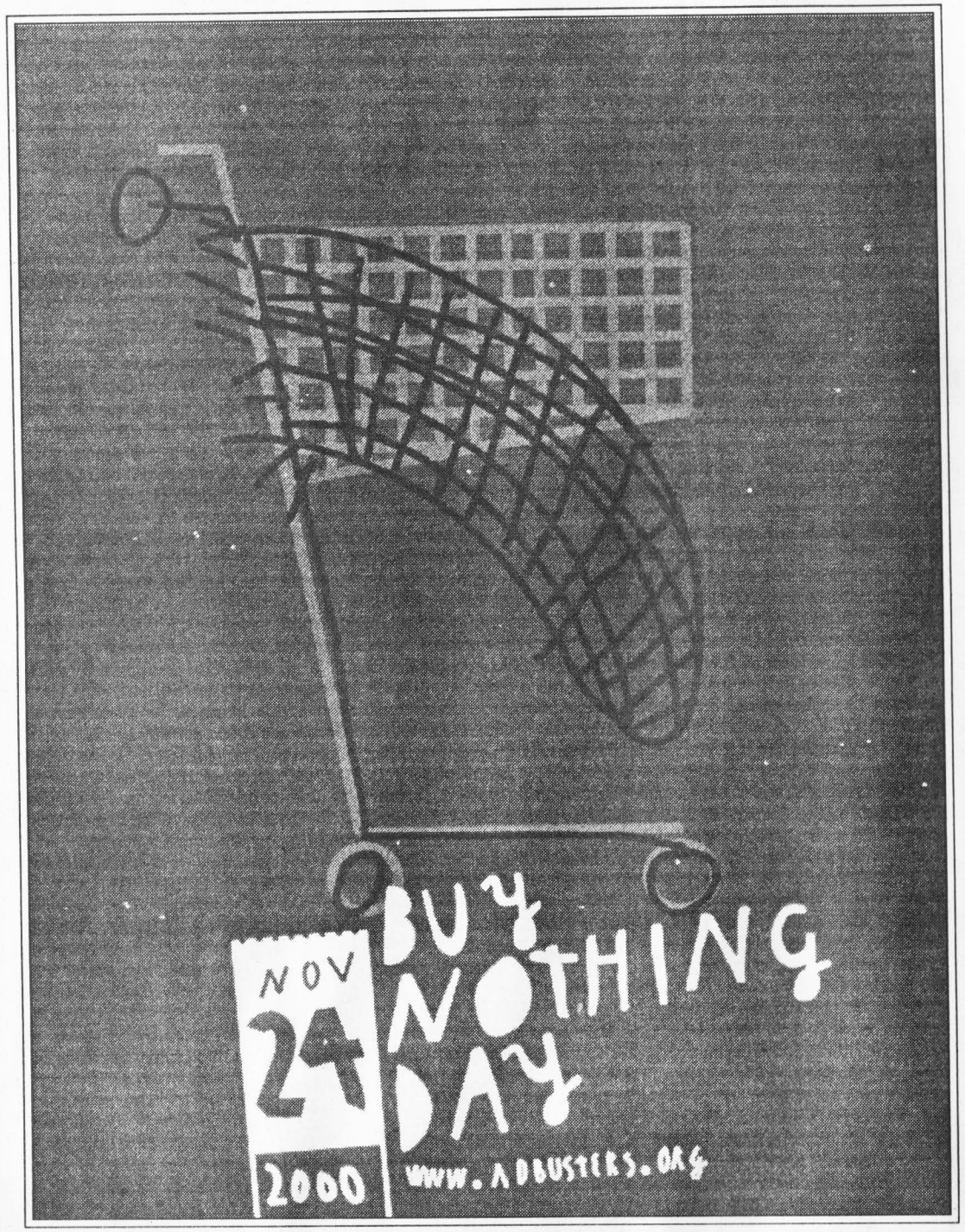
4 Civil Rights Endorsements

6 Strategically Vote For Nader

8 KAOS - In Transition

10 Save *Democracy Now!*

12 Capitalism and Climate Change



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